

## County Club Simultaneous Pairs 2019

In preparation for the upcoming European Championships in Turkey in June, the Dutch national squad decided to play a series of challenge matches against whom they considered were the stronger bridge playing countries. It is pleasing to report that they put England in that category and so in April this year they played a 128-board match. It was a little unusual in that it was not a straightforward team of 4 match but involved three pairs which is the number of players normally in a national squad for these events.

The English team consisted of Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Ed Jones (son of LCBA member Duncan Jones), Tom Paske, David Bakhshi and Alon Birman, an Australian acting as a late substitute.

No disrespect to the two other pairs, but I have highlighted the activities of the two most famous members of the squad, Andrew Robson and Tony Forrester.

Tony was a junior at the time I was leaving school in the mid-seventies and was a precocious talent even then. He has won the Gold Cup, Crockfords Cup and Spring Foursomes more time than any player.

Andrew came to fame when he was part of the World Junior Championship winning side held in Nottingham in 1989. He has won the competitions mentioned above on numerous occasions. He runs his own bridge club and school in London and travels the country giving bridge tuition classes.

Andrew and Tony formed a very successful partnership in the nineties during which time they won the Gold Cup on numerous occasions and were part of the team which won the prestigious US competition, the Reisinger, which they won in consecutive years. Their partnership broke up in the late nineties but recently reformed and more success has come their way in the last five years.

I hope you enjoy the hands I have selected from this challenge match (which England won quite convincingly) and learn from the actions of the masters.

Simon

**1**

♠ 10 ♥ 54 ♦ A10732 ♣ AQJ65  ♠ 763 ♥ AQ108 ♦ 654 ♣ 1098  ♠ KQ9542 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ98 ♣ 32  ♠ AJ8 ♥ KJ9762 ♦ K ♣ K74	Dealer: North Neither Vulnerable  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> Opening Lead: ♠ 6	West	North	East	South		1♦	2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	1♦	2♠	3♣														
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT														
Pass	Pass	Pass															

Fireworks on the first board. Forrester, sitting East made a weak jump overcall and South bid 3♣ showing ♥ and then followed up with 3NT. Robson led a ♠ to the Q and A and declarer went to table with a club to play a ♥. Robson won and, realising that another ♠ would give declarer his 9th trick returned a club. Now whatever declarer did in the ♠ suit, Robson could exit with a minor card and declarer ended up going 2 off. At the other table England ended up in 4♥XX and with a neat endplay in trumps ended with 10 tricks.

**2**

♠ K10 ♥ AK42 ♦ A8 ♣ K9532  ♠ Q93 ♥ J973 ♦ K1074 ♣ A7  ♠ J8752 ♥ 5 ♦ Q32 ♣ QJ84  ♠ A64 ♥ Q1086 ♦ J965 ♣ 106	Dealer: East Both Vulnerable  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> Opening Lead: ♠ 3	West	North	East	South			2♠	Pass	3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South														
		2♠	Pass														
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥														
Pass	Pass	Pass															

Forrester opened a streaky 2♠ showing ♠ + minor and Robson continued the pre-empt. However North had a standard double so South played in 4♥. Robson led a ♠ and declarer won in hand and made the strange play of running the 10♣. Now with the trumps 4-1 he was doomed to defeat.

**3**

♠ KQ1074 ♥ K97 ♦ 865 ♣ AK  ♠ 9 ♥ Q108532 ♦ AKQ102 ♣ 4  ♠ J65 ♥ A6 ♦ 943 ♣ J10632  ♠ A832 ♥ J4 ♦ J7 ♣ Q9875	Dealer: South E-W Vulnerable  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4♦</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> Opening Lead: ♠ K	West	North	East	South		1♥	1♠	Dbl		4♦	4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass		Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South																		
	1♥	1♠	Dbl																		
	4♦	4♠	5♦																		
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass																		
Pass		Pass	Pass																		

Robson opened 1♥ and after a ♠ overcall, South bid 3♥ showing a mixed raise - 7-9 points with 4 card support. Robson now bid ♦'s to show his shape and after North bid game, Forrester made the dubious decision to bid 5D. North doubled and cashed his black suit winners then played a second ♣. Robson ruffed and could have got out for 1 off by drawing trumps and taking advantage of the favourable ♥ position. However he was too worried about a red suit not splitting and so went two off when South overruffed the 3rd round of ♥'s. At the other table England played in 4♠ and were lucky to receive the A♥ lead which guaranteed the contract.

**4**

♠ 8 ♥ A1098 ♦ 7543 ♣ AJ104  ♠ J762 ♥ J542 ♦ K1092 ♣ 6  ♠ K93 ♥ Q63 ♦ AQ ♣ Q9732  ♠ AQ1054 ♥ K7 ♦ J86 ♣ K85	Dealer: West Both Vulnerable  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> Opening Lead: ♠ 3	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠														
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass														
Pass																	

A quiet auction to 1NT and a ♠ lead was favourable for declarer. With time on his hands, declarer set about the long process of trying to establish a ♦ trick but when this did not work out he settled for 7 tricks. He must have been disappointed with team-mates who also played in 1NT, this time by East, as this contract is not so straightforward. N/S set about establishing ♠ tricks and declarer could not reach dummy to enjoy his ♦'s. The contact went 2 off for a small gain to England

5	♠ K9432	Dealer: North			
	♥ AK7	N-S Vulnerable			
	♦ A2	West	North	East	South
	♣ QJ8		1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
♠ A8	♠ Q1075	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
♥ Q102	♥ 63	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
♦ J95	♦ K8	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ A10954	♣ K7632				
	♠ J6	Opening Lead: ♠ 7			
	♥ J9854				
	♦ Q107643				
	♣				

The Dutch had a very aggressive auction to 4♥. After 1NT, South's 2♦ did not necessarily show a 5 card ♥ suit, 2♠ showed a maximum with 3♥'s and 3♦ was a retransfer to ♥'s. Because of his shape South fancied a shot at game. Forrester led a ♠ to the A and Robson found the switch of a low ♣ to the Q and K giving declarer problems. He tried A♥, A and another ♦ but a second ♣ from Forrester meant that declarer lost control of the trump suit and was forced to go one off. Declarer needed to cash the 2 top ♥'s before playing on ♦'s. At the other table N/S played in 2♥ making 8 tricks.

6	♠ J98	Dealer: East			
	♥ 4	E-W Vulnerable			
	♦ KQ86	West	North	East	South
	♣ A8653			Pass	1 ♣
♠ 1062	♠ 743	2 ♥	Dbl	3 ♥	3 ♣
♥ AQ10986	♥ J7532	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ 532	♦ J107				
♣ K	♣ QJ				
	♠ AKQ5	Opening Lead: ♦ 5			
	♥ K				
	♦ A94				
	♣ 109742				

The Dutch missed a fairly simple game on this deal. After Robson's jump overcall, North made a t/o double and Forrester raised to 3. Now South's 3S must have been interpreted as competitive and was passed by North. England reached 4♠ at the other table. Note that this is a classic case of establishing the side suit before drawing trumps. Both declarers won the ♦ lead and played A and another ♣

7	♠ Q108	Dealer: South			
	♥ QJ652	Both Vulnerable			
	♦ 97	West	North	East	South
	♣ 532				1 NT
♠ A62	♠ J94	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
♥ A10	♥ K873	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ 10864	♦ QJ5				
♣ 10864	♣ K97				
	♠ K753	Opening Lead: ♣ 6			
	♥ 94				
	♦ AK32				
	♣ AQJ				

Little to say about this hand. At both tables N/S played a strong NT and both North's transferred to ♥ though in the case of the Dutch the bid of 2♦ did not guarantee a 5 card suit. Not much to say about the play either as the defence at both tables took 5 tricks.

8	♠ AJ7	Dealer: West			
	♥ 8	Neither Vulnerable			
	♦ A982	West	North	East	South
	♣ AQ974			1 ♦	Pass
♠ Q1052	♠ K6	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
♥ K97432	♥ AQJ	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
♦ 4	♦ K10753	Pass	Pass		
♣ K8	♣ J53				
	♠ 9843	Opening Lead: ♠ A			
	♥ 1065				
	♦ QJ6				
	♣ 1062				

No weak 2 opening by Robson because of the 4 card ♠ suit so North opened 1♠ and Forrester overcalled 1♦. Robson showed his suit and Forrester raised with his above minimum overcall. Robson showed his other suit and that was enough for Forrester to bid game. North led A and another ♣ and Robson was able to firstly play a ♦ and then set up a ♠ ruff before drawing trumps. Even on a trump lead, declarer plays K and another ♠ (assuming North ducks) and now the defender is end played, forced to lead an A or set up the 4th ♠. A flat board.

9	♠ K1082	Dealer: North			
	♥ Q9	E-W Vulnerable			
	♦ J93	West	North	East	South
	♣ K983				
♠ 4	♠ AJ3		Pass	1 ♦	Pass
♥ AKJ543	♥ 7	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
♦ 64	♦ AQ1082	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
♣ AQ105	♣ J742	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
	♠ Q9765	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
	♥ 10862	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
	♦ K75	6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ 6	Opening Lead: ♠ 6			

As you can see our England pair bid to an optimistic 6♣ contract and with both minor suit K's offside this had no chance. If N/S hands had been reversed the contract would make so maybe it's not such a bad slam. At the other table the English interfered with ♠'s and the Dutch ended in 4♥. This makes if you get the trumps right but declarer not unreasonably took a first round finesse. 3NT by E makes but you need to be a good guesser in ♥'s, ♦'s AND ♣'s

10	♠ J1086	Dealer: East			
	♥ K732	Both Vulnerable			
	♦ 1062	West	North	East	South
	♣ 63				
♠ KQ953	♠ 72			1 ♦	1 ♥
♥ A5	♥ Q6	DbI	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
♦ Q4	♦ KJ983	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
♣ J875	♣ AQ42	Pass	Pass		
	♠ A4	Opening Lead: ♥ J			
	♥ J10984				
	♦ A75				
	♣ K109				

Again the cards are not well placed for E/W. Forrester opened 1♦ and after South's overcall, Robson preferred to double rather than bid 1♠ as he presumably thought he could show the suit later in the auction. North's raise to 3♥ confirms the theory that players bid on nothing these days! Robson backed in with 3♠, Forrester showed his second suit and Robson could not see a play for game. Even 4♣ was too high with the trump K offside. At the other table, North only made a single raise of partner's overcall so the Dutch were able to land in 3♠ just making.

11	♠ 54	Dealer: South			
	♥ AJ9632	N-S Vulnerable			
	♦ K75	West	North	East	South
	♣ 53				
♠ K107632	♠ A	2 ♦	2 ♥	3 NT	Pass
♥ 10	♥ Q84	Pass	Pass	4 ♣	DbI
♦ 10863	♦ A4	Pass	Pass		Pass
♣ K4	♣ AQJ9872	Pass	Pass		
	♠ QJ98	Opening Lead: ♦ Q			
	♥ K75				
	♦ QJ92				
	♣ 106				

Robson opened a multi 2♦ (either a weak 2 major or strong 4-4-4-1). Over North's overcall Forrester decided to bid a direct 3NT and South came up with surprising double. This had the effect of putting doubt into Tony's mind about his contract so retreated to 4♣. This made with an overtrick after a non trump lead. In 3NT\*, after a small ♥ lead to the A and, say, the return of the 9, Forrester has a guess which I would hope he would get right. At the other table West opened 2♠, North did not bid and when East bid 3NT, South led Q♦ for 10 tricks.

12	♠ K76	Dealer: West			
	♥ J5	N-S Vulnerable			
	♦ AQ	West	North	East	South
	♣ AK9542				
♠ J53	♠ 1098	Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
♥ 8742	♥ AQ6	Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♦
♦ 743	♦ 9862	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
♣ J76	♣ Q108	Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
	♠ AQ42	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♥ K1093	Opening Lead: ♠ 10			
	♦ KJ105				
	♣ 3				

The Dutch had a fairly complicated auction to the correct spot. 1♣ could be as short as 2, 1♦ was a transfer to ♥'s and 1NT showed balanced 18-20. 3♦ from South showed 4-4-4-1 with short ♣ and when North eventually bid 3NT, his partner made an invitational raise to 4. THIS IS NOT BLACKWOOD. North with his 17 count and knowing about partner's short ♣ passed fairly quickly. The contract was the same at the other table and both declarers made 12 tricks when East turned up with AQ♥ of ♥'s

13  
 ♠ KJ9  
 ♥ AQJ10964  
 ♦ K2  
 ♣ 5  
 ♠ A642            ♠ Q8753  
 ♥ 73                ♥ 8  
 ♦ 1065             ♦ J9843  
 ♣ Q983             ♣ 104  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ AQ7  
 ♣ AKJ762

Dealer: North  
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦ 3

A fairly routine slam for N/S. The Dutch North opened 4♥ and after a RKCB enquiry, his partner bid 6♥. Following a ♦ lead declarer was able to discard all the losing spades on the established ♣'s for a 1 imp gain. Note that some pairs switch the 5♣ and 5♦ responses to RKCB as have the Dutch here, where 5♣ shows 1 ace.

14  
 ♠ A9874  
 ♥ KJ64  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ 85  
 ♠ KJ3                ♠ Q10652  
 ♥ AQ872            ♥ 10  
 ♦ 10                 ♦ KQ2  
 ♣ A743              ♣ J1096  
 ♠  
 ♥ 953  
 ♦ A976543  
 ♣ KQ2

Dealer: East  
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4 ♠	DbI	2 ♠	3 ♦
Pass		Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♦ A

Forrester opened 2♠ showing ♠'s and a minor (obviously quality of suits is NOT a important!) and Andrew had a pop at game after South's overcall. North felt his trumps were good enough to double. The A♦ lead was helpful for declarer but the 5-0 trump break could not be overcome and the contract had to go 1 down. At the other table there was no double but also no A♦ lead so this time 4♠ went 2 off for a flat board.

15  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ A95  
 ♦ KQ10854  
 ♣ J9  
 ♠ AK107632        ♠ 54  
 ♥ 1072             ♥ 4  
 ♦ J7                ♦ 932  
 ♣ 6                 ♣ AKQ7532  
 ♠ Q9  
 ♥ KQJ863  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ 1084

Dealer: South  
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	1 ♥
Pass	DbI	Pass	Pass
Pass		Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦ K

Always plenty of bidding when every player has a good suit. Robson pre-empted over South's opener and Forrester bid 4♠ which was doubled. Two rounds of ♦'s were led ending up with North and it seemed that the defence was to cash A♥ and then lead a third ♦ for South to ruff with the Q thus promoting partner a trump. However at trick 3 North switched to a club and it seemed declarer had a chance. However when Andrew played a ♥ South won and played a trump. Robson was able to ruff a ♥ and discard the other on the K♠ but couldn't get back to hand without South again getting a trump promotion. England still gained on the hand as the Dutch E/W were in 5♠\* going 2 off.

16  
 ♠ AQ42  
 ♥ A52  
 ♦ J864  
 ♣ Q5  
 ♠ K1073            ♠ 9865  
 ♥ KJ                ♥ Q1086  
 ♦ A10              ♦ K75  
 ♣ KJ432            ♣ A8  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ 9743  
 ♦ Q932  
 ♣ 10976

Dealer: West  
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♦ 6

Both pairs ended in 4♠ and the play was virtually identical at both tables. A ♦ lead, won on table and a trump to the J, K, ducked by North. Then K and J♥, North taking the 2nd round, continuing with another ♦. Andrew won in hand and played a trump towards the 9 but North now played 3 round of trumps. Robson won on table and cashed two ♥'s discarding ♣'s. Now the whole hand hinged on locating the Q♠. The other declarer got to the same position. Knowing Andrew it would have taken some time but eventually he cashed A and K dropping the Q making the contract. At the other table declarer finessed and went 2 off

17  
 ♠ K96  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ 852  
 ♣ 105432  
 ♠ QJ108  
 ♥ AK54  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ K6  
 ♠ A532  
 ♥ J1098762  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ Q  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥  
 ♦ AQ9763  
 ♣ AJ987

Dealer: North  
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	3 ♥	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ A

A number of decisions to make on this deal. Do you open 3♥ with the East cards having 4♠'s? What then do you bid with the South cards? Do you bid 5♥ on the West cards or double? Well, East decided to pre-empt and Robson sitting South bid 4NT showing the minors. Over Forrester's 5♣ West took the money by doubling. It was impossible to escape losing two ♦'s, two ♠'s and a trump and though this is a bad score at pairs, it was a minor loss at teams with 11 tricks available for E/W in ♥'s.

18  
 ♠ Q873  
 ♥  
 ♦ 7653  
 ♣ AK985  
 ♠ 654  
 ♥ AK10874  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ 32  
 ♠ 1092  
 ♥ J93  
 ♦ A42  
 ♣ Q1076  
 ♠ AKJ  
 ♥ Q652  
 ♦ KQJ9  
 ♣ J4

Dealer: East  
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣
2 ♥	Dbl	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ 6

Another triumph for aggressive bidding. After a 1♣ opener by South, Robson was in with 2♥ and after North's t/o double, South thought his hand and ♥ stop good enough to bid a direct 3NT. Even an initial ♥ lead would be fine but Andrew led a spade and declarer's first move was to run the J♠. Tony won and led a ♥ for a possible 4 off. However Andrew could not work out the position in the suit and when he won the first round, continued with ♠'s and declarer got out for 2 off. Amazingly at the other table West never got the chance to show his suit after a 1NT opener by South and decided to lead a ♦ against 3NT. East won and continued the suit and declarer claimed a relieved 9 tricks.

19  
 ♠ A1094  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ KJ95432  
 ♣  
 ♠ 65  
 ♥ QJ92  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AK8643  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ A54  
 ♦ AQ76  
 ♣ J10975  
 ♠ KQJ832  
 ♥ K1063  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ Q2

Dealer: South  
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
2 ♣	4 ♣	4 NT	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♦ 8

A great board for England. Both pairs ended in 5♠. Against Forrester West led 8♦ to the Q and then A and another ♥ made it quite easy for Tony to make 11 tricks. At the other table the England West led a top ♣ ruffed on table and when a ♦ was led East won with the Q to play a second ♣. Now declarer has a problem setting up the ♦ suit and enjoying it. He tried K♦ but East played low to let partner ruff. Now A♥ was the setting trick.

20  
 ♠ AQ64  
 ♥ 9743  
 ♦ Q762  
 ♣ 2  
 ♠ 872  
 ♥ KQ1086  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ K975  
 ♠ K105  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AK109  
 ♣ Q8643  
 ♠ J93  
 ♥ J52  
 ♦ J854  
 ♣ AJ10

Dealer: West  
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♦ 4

Our pair lost more imps here. Forrester opened 1♣ (2+), 1♦ showed ♥'s and 1♠ showed an unbalanced hand with no reversing values (Tony had decided not reverse due to poor ♠'s) Now Andrew could not see sufficient values for 3NT to make and bid 4♣. This cannot be defeated but neither can 3NT with the ♠'s 4-3 and the J♥ falling in 3 rounds so you might say a fortunate contract. The Dutch East rebid 2♦ reverse and so West had no reason to disturb 3NT.

21	♠ Q1072 ♥ 3 ♦ KJ98 ♣ 5432  ♠ K8 ♥ 9876 ♦ 65 ♣ KQ1097  ♠ AJ ♥ AKQJ542 ♦ 43 ♣ A6  ♠ 96543 ♥ 10 ♦ AQ1072 ♣ J8	Dealer: North N-S Vulnerable  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♣</td> <td>1 ♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Opening Lead: ♦ A	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦											
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass											

Both E/W pairs fell from grace on the board but were put under severe pressure by their opponents. At Forrester's table the Dutch East opened 1♣ showing bal 18+ or unbalanced 15+, Tony overcalled 1♦, West's pass showed 6-8 and Robson bid an aggressive 4♦. East now bid 5♥ and West, I presume assumed that partner had at least 2nd round control in ♦'s bid 6. The play was over with very quickly. At the other table the English East only bid 4♥ but later on in the auction West bid 5♦ which convinced East there was a stop in that suit. So a flat board in 6♥-1.

22	♠ Q532 ♥ 3 ♦ Q9874 ♣ J98  ♠ K1087 ♥ AK74 ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ6  ♠ 6 ♥ 10965 ♦ K10532 ♣ 743	Dealer: East E-W Vulnerable  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Opening Lead: ♣ 7	West	North	East	South	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	5 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass	7 ♥	Pass	5 ♠	Pass			Pass	Pass
	West	North	East	South																						
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣	Pass																							
4 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass																							
5 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass																							
7 ♥	Pass	5 ♠	Pass																							
		Pass	Pass																							

Optimistic final contracts at both tables. With our pair N/S, the Dutch East started with a short club and after the transfer response bid 2♥ to show 4♥'s in a weakish hand. When W splintered East used RKCB and over 5♦ (0 or 3)bid 5♠ as a grand slam try and West with his undisclosed assets was happy to bid 7. The same contract was reached at the other table. In the match the trumps split 5-0 so the contract was forced 2 off but I took pity on E/W and swapped the red 3's over.

23	♠ 43 ♥ 87 ♦ 1093 ♣ KJ9752  ♠ AJ5 ♥ Q65 ♦ AKQ875 ♣ A  ♠ KQ986 ♥ J1042 ♦ J62 ♣ 3  ♠ 1072 ♥ AK93 ♦ 4 ♣ Q10864	Dealer: South Both Vulnerable  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redb</td> <td>4 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Opening Lead: ♥ A	West	North	East	South	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl	Redb	4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass		
	West	North	East	South																		
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl																			
Redb	4 ♣	Pass	Pass																			
Dbl	Pass	4 ♠	Pass																			
Pass	Pass																					

Another example of aggressive defensive bidding and a triumph for the support double. Andrew was West and opened 1♦ showing 5♦ in an unbalanced hand. After South's double, his redouble showed exactly 3 card support for partner. North pre-empted but Andrew was able to double again to show a good hand and Tony could bid 4♠ knowing of the 8 card fit. A♥ was led and after a ♦ switch, Forrester made 12 tricks. At the other table the initial bids were identical but the England South continued with 5♠ and West bid 5D. North led his doubleton ♥ and that meant 1 off.

24	♠ 8754 ♥ J93 ♦ 7 ♣ KQJ62  ♠ J ♥ AKQ42 ♦ A85 ♣ A1094  ♠ 1093 ♥ 10876 ♦ 10932 ♣ 53	Dealer: West Neither Vulnerable  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 ♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 ♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Opening Lead: ♣ 5	West	North	East	South	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
	West	North	East	South																						
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass																							
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3 ♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass																							
3 NT	Pass	4 ♦	Pass																							
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass																							

How easy is it for E/W to bid to their cold 7NT on this deal? Obviously pretty hard as both England and Holland played in 6♦. That the J♠ is pulling its weight is difficult to judge but even without it, 7♦ is a great contract. The auction given is the Dutch one and though the meaning of some bids is unclear it seems that once East makes an ongoing bid with 4♦, West might be looking for the grand. Of course if East has a chance to use RKCB and finds out about the 3 aces and K♥ then surely would have a pot at 7♦. Well done if you bid the grand.

25

♠ AKQ743  
♥ 83  
♦ A532  
♣ J

♠ 1098  
♥ Q54  
♦ 764  
♣ KQ86

♠ J62  
♥ AJ106  
♦ KQJ9  
♣ 95

♠ 5  
♥ K972  
♦ 108  
♣ A107432

Dealer: North  
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♦ 4

Our pair lose no opportunity to punish even slight errors in the bidding. The Dutch North opened 1♠ and 3♣ was pre-emptive. This was passed back to Tony who found a t/o double, converted to penalties by his partner. Andrew led 4♦. Declarer took the second round, played a ♥ to the K, then cashed AK ♠'s both defenders petering. Fearing a 4-2 break he ruffed a ♦ and exited with a ♥. Tony was able to win with the J and play a trump. Andrew won, played a 3rd ♥ to Tony's and the 4th round set up two more trump tricks for Andrew. Two off. At the other table England played in 3S and with the trumps 3-3 and the A♥ onside this made.

26

♠ 653  
♥ 108  
♦ J932  
♣ 8652

♠ KQ94  
♥ KJ94  
♦ Q65  
♣ K4

♠ 7632  
♦ 10874  
♣ QJ1097

♠ AJ10872  
♥ AQ5  
♦ AK  
♣ A3

Dealer: East  
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2 ♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Redb
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦ 5

Our pair play a multi 2♠ opener and it seems that one of the options is a strong 2 in ♠'s. North was not interested in progressing and Robson made 8 tricks in comfort. The real excitement was at the other table where the Dutch stretched all the way to 4♠. With a difficult lead to find, the English West chose a ♥ and this allowed declarer to get a ruff in dummy and then, without touching trumps, eliminated the other suits and end played West in trumps, losing only one ♣ and two trumps. Well played!

27

♠ KJ43  
♥ J5432  
♦ K  
♣ 1087

♠ A10987  
♥ AKQ9  
♦ Q5  
♣ 52

♠ Q652  
♥ 6  
♦ 108743  
♣ KJ4

♠ 1087  
♥ AJ962  
♣ AQ963

Dealer: South  
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		4 ♠	1 ♦
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	5 ♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ K

A bit of a disaster for our pair and which provoked a discussion both by the players at the table and the commentators about Robson's double. When the dummy went down Forrester immediately showed his disapproval at his partner's effort. Should Andrew have bid 1NT instead? Was he good enough to double? Should he not be worried if partner bids ♠'s? Conversely what if partner had ♥'s? Now North's hand is very acceptable. The commentators agreed with Robson's double but that did not stop an animated difference of opinion at the table. 5♠ went two off with 4S\* by West failing by the same number at the other table.

28

♠ J109  
♥ 84  
♦ A105  
♣ K9432

♠ A74  
♥ 93  
♦ 9643  
♣ AQJ10

♠ Q865  
♥ KJ62  
♦ KJ2  
♣ 85

♠ K32  
♥ AQ1075  
♦ Q87  
♣ 76

Dealer: West  
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ J

The one talent most experts have that the average player doesn't is fearlessness. On this very ordinary deal Robson and Forrester sitting N/S made a good board out of nothing. West opened 1♦ showing 11-15 with 2+♦ and 1NT showed 12-14 balanced. What do you think of Tony's double? Scary. But see how well it worked. Andrew led J♠ which held the trick. 8♥ next to the 10. 7♠ to Q and K, 10♠ to the A. Declarer played ♦ to J and Q and another ♣ came back. Declarer was forced to cash clubs throwing a ♠ and ♥ and then exited with a ♠. Tony played ♦ to the A, 9♠ then a ♥ by Andrew took this contract 3 off.