ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for Children in Need

Tuesday 8th November 2022

Together we can ...

... and by competing in this Simultaneous Pairs you have once again certainly shown that **together we can indeed do something to help make a difference** to children who really need our help.

Some of you will have played Face-to-Face and others online but all the results will be included in the overall scoring as usual, so don't worry!

Thank you so so much for coming along and joining in, playing and donating – please don't forget the donating bit though, will you – just go to:

https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/donations.asp

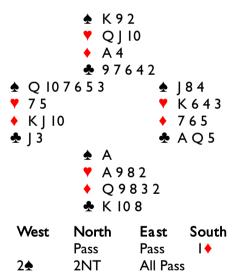
and you will see how you can do it - if you haven't already done so of course!

Many thanks indeed to Julian Pottage for writing this set for us – I hope you found it interesting (and accurate!).

With very best wishes

Anna & Mark - the EcatsBridge Team

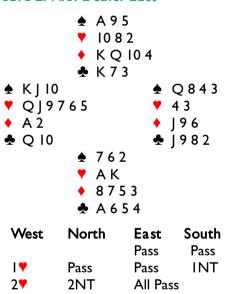
Board I. None. Dealer North



I like weak jump overcalls (24) because they disrupt the opposing bidding.

You can make 2NT by winning the spade and leading a low club off dummy. If you do not do that, East delays playing the ♥K to give you entry problems.

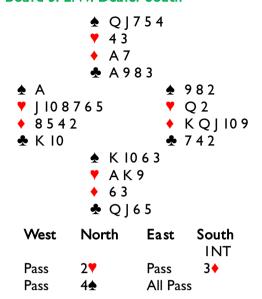
Board 2. N/S. Dealer East



With a double heart stopper and lacking four spades, South reopens with INT.

You make 2NT by setting up three diamond tricks to go with the five top winners. West would be at least one down in 2♥ and needs an inspired guess to play for the ♥A-K doubleton rather than a doubleton ♥10 to get out for one down.

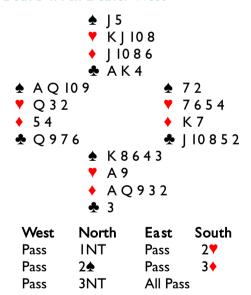
Board 3. E/W. Dealer South



South's super accept of North's transfer shows a low doubleton diamond. North might make a re-transfer but West would surely lead a diamond, so little point.

To make an overtrick in $4 \pm$ after West covers the first club, you need to guess to drop the ± 10 rather than run the ± 9 (the latter playing East for ± 10 -x-x).

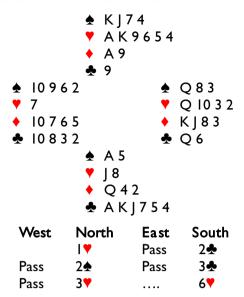
Board 4. All. Dealer West



Holding a double stopper in South's short suits, North is happy to play in 3NT.

Again there is a guess needed (which defender to play for the \PQ) to make the maximum number of tricks (11). This time declarer is likely to get it right.

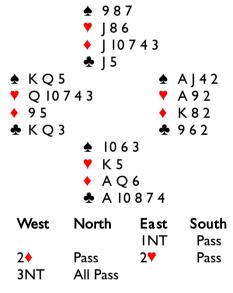
Board 5. N/S. Dealer North



After North shows reversing values and 4-6 in the majors, 6♥ is a likely contract.

Since East has no good lead, declarer can make 6♥ by setting up the clubs with one ruff and leading towards the ♥J. Not everyone will make 12 tricks.

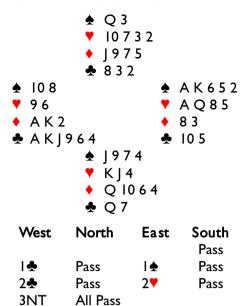
Board 6. E/W. Dealer East



With no ruffing value East elects for the 9-trick game when offered the choice.

After winning the first club in dummy, declarer can make 3NT by finessing the ♥9. If East were to put up the ♥A, South might well read North for the ♥J and drop the ♥K, which would allow North to get in to switch to the ♦I.

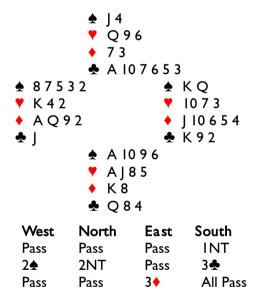
Board 7. All. Dealer South



If West were to rebid 3♣, East-West might reach the decent 6♣.

6♣ is almost as good as needing one of two finesses and makes as the cards lie. 6NT is also on (if you play to endplay South) except on a heart lead from North.

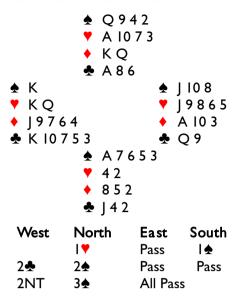
Board 8. None. Dealer West



West's 2♠ shows spade and a minor. North's 2NT asks South to bid 3♣.

Since East as no quick entry, a club lead to the ace and a heart switch at trick two is good enough to stop the overtrick in 3. A spade lead should beat 3.

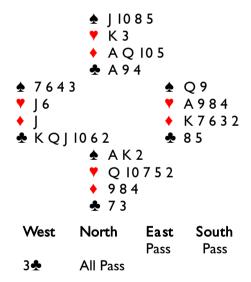
Board 9. E/W. Dealer North



At a different vulnerability West might bid an unusual 2NT on the first round.

So long as East does not switch to the $\clubsuit Q$ when in with the $\spadesuit A$, $3\spadesuit$ should fail by a trick. East could make $3\spadesuit$ with just three aces and a trump trick to lose.

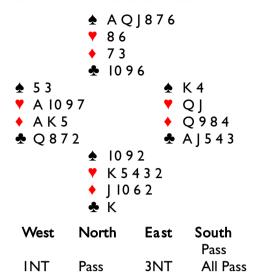
Board 10. All. Dealer East



In third seat and holding concentrated strength West decides to pre-empt.

You can make an overtrick in 3NT if you drop the J offside – and perhaps the desire to keep West (who will have club tricks to cash) off lead means you do decide to find that play.

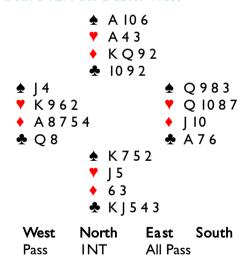
Board II. None. Dealer South



As it is usual to play constructive overcalls of a weak INT, North does not bid.

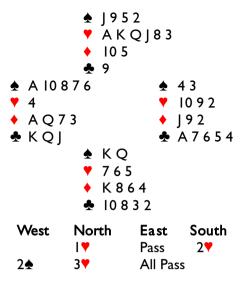
The likely line in 3NT after the ♠Q lead is to take the ♠K, come to hand with the a diamond and finesse the ♣J. This results in down two. With diamonds 4-2 and South able to duck two rounds of hearts to leave the king guarded, you probably still go down, if you decide to finesse in hearts instead.

Board 12. N/S. Dealer West



After a heart lead it looks like declarer will lose just three hearts, two clubs and a diamond – but communications are an issue if the defenders switch to spades in the right way. Declarer will want to keep the ♠K as an entry to the long clubs and the ♠A as an entry to the diamonds – but it is tough to do both!

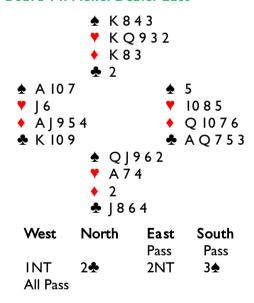
Board 13. All. Dealer North



West might double 3 (for takeout) at a different vulnerability.

With the ◆A offside, 3♥ fails by a trick. Mainly because ruffing hearts in the West hand would help to set up South's trumps nine tricks are the limit in a club contract.

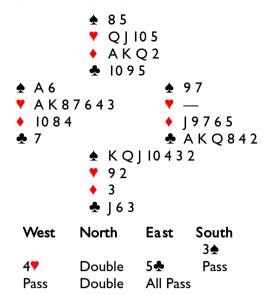
Board 14. None. Dealer East



North's 2♣ shows both majors and East's 2NT asks West to bid 3♣.

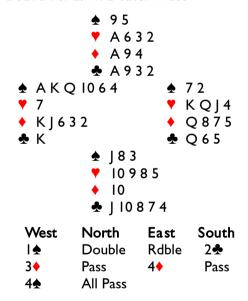
With the North-South hands fitting well and no hostile breaks, ten tricks are on in a spade contract. If East-West find their diamond fit and manage to buy the contract, a club lead (or heart lead and club switch) holds them to nine tricks.

Board 15. N/S. Dealer South



East-West are likely to run into trouble after South's pre-empt. If South finds a diamond lead and discards two heart on the diamonds, the defenders can collect 500 from 5♣ doubled. 4♥ doubled also goes for 500 after a diamond lead, South discarding two clubs this time.

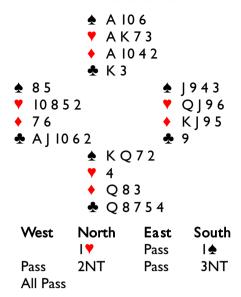
Board 16. E/W. Dealer West



With 26 HCP and a two-suit fit, East-West can hardly fail to reach game.

North can cash three aces. The fall of the \clubsuit K, dummy's strength and the bidding should then make it easy enough to work out that the best continuation is to try to give South a diamond ruff. Finding this is harder if West has not bid diamonds.

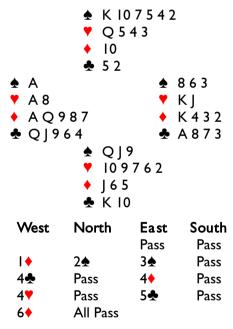
Board 17. None. Dealer North



After North shows 18-19 balanced, South has an easy raise.

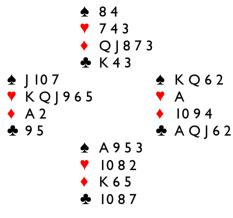
By pinning the \$\\ 8\$ and later finessing the \$\\ 7\$, declarer can make 3NT – but this is not the normal way to play the spades. In real life, if East finds the best lead of a heart (easier if North has not bid the suit), 3NT might well fail.

Board 18. N/S. Dealer East



If East-West identify their good fit and lack of spade wastage, they reach a slam. On normal breaks 12 tricks roll in with either minor suit as trumps.

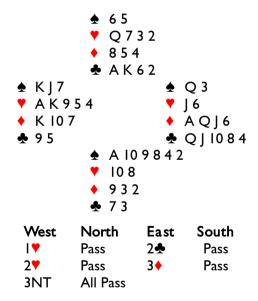
Board 19. E/W. Dealer South



West	North	East	South
			Pass
I ♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

When West bids hearts three times, East is happy to have the suit as trumps. Although they have only seven-card fits, East-West do much better (three tricks better no less) in a suit contract than in no-trumps since a diamond lead would set up the suit for the defenders in 3NT.

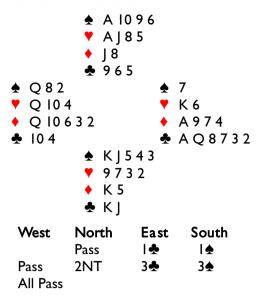
Board 20. All. Dealer West



With 27 HCP and all suits well stopped, reaching 3NT should be normal.

Unless East declares and South leads a heart, you can make an overtrick in 3NT by setting up the clubs while the defenders make only their three top winners.

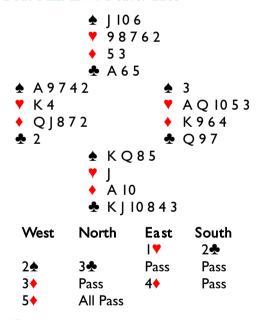
Board 21. N/S. Dealer North



Although North's 2NT shows a sound 4-card raise, South has no game interest.

With the ♥10 and ♦A both onside, you can in fact make game if you guess to play West for the ♠Q. East-West would be one down in four of either minor.

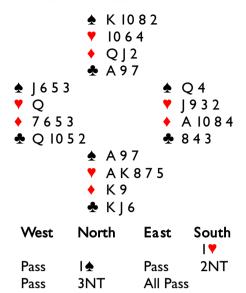
Board 22. E/W. Dealer East



If East opens, as many will with these cards, the contract is likely to be $5 \diamondsuit$.

The singleton ♥J lead defeats 5♦ because South can get in with the ♠A, put North in with the ♣A and score a heart ruff.

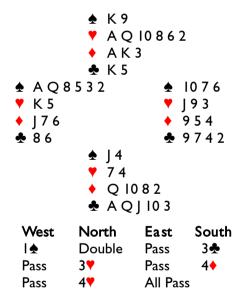
Board 23. All. Dealer South



With combined 28-29 HCP and no ruffing value, North does not look for a 5-3 fit.

Even without a club lead, you can make two overtricks in 3NT if you lead low after cashing a high heart and later squeeze or endplay West in the black suits.

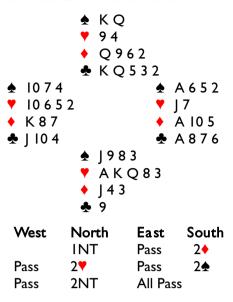
Board 24. None. Dealer West



Too strong for a $2\P$ overcall, North starts with a double. Reaching 3NT is possible if South bids $3\clubsuit$ over $3\P$.

After the $1 \triangleq$ opening, 6NT is a decent spot because West is sure to have the $\triangle A$ and ∇K . In a heart contract, you lose the $\triangle A$ at trick one and a trump later.

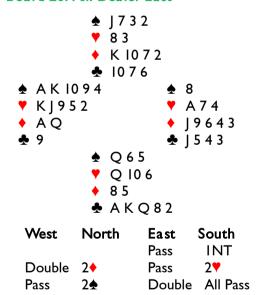
Board 25. E/W. Dealer North



Minimum for a 12-14 INT and not liking South's suits, North signs off in 2NT.

Although the ♠10 falls in three rounds, with hearts 4-2 and the ♣A offside, 2NT should fail. 2♥ makes if you can stop there (perhaps if North does not open),

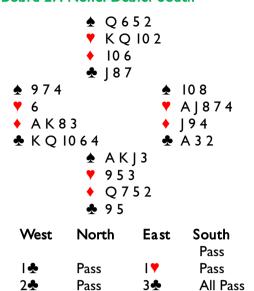
Board 26. All. Dealer East



Playing the first double after opponents run from INT doubled as takeout, East passes over 2 (diamonds and a major) and West does so over South's 2 .

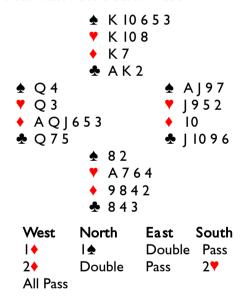
East's lack of a second entry means the penalty from 2♠ doubled is 'only' I I 00. If North-South would be playing in clubs, East-West do better to declare.

Board 27. None. Dealer South



Even if declarer guesses to pin the ◆10, it would take a slip from the defenders to allow 11 tricks in a club contract. With spades 4-4, if you take an inspired view in the diamond suit, you can make 9 tricks in a no-trump contract.

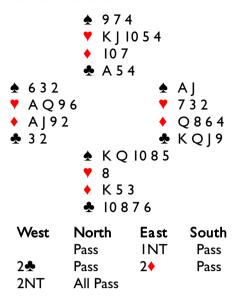
Board 28. N/S. Dealer West



East's double shows four hearts while North's double shows extra values.

North-South are in grave danger of losing 200 on this deal. It works better for them if North overcalls INT or if East bids INT over 1. East-West can make 2. or INT but are likely to fare better defending since North-South are vulnerable.

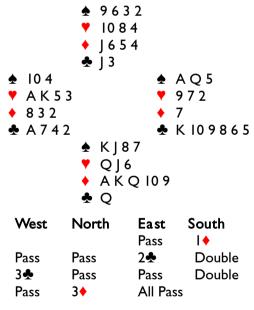
Board 29. All. Dealer North



Having shown 12-14 with no 4-card major, East, with no tens, stops in 2NT.

After a top spade lead, declarer will yet again need an inspired view to make the maximum, here leading the •Q on the first or second diamond to pin the ten.

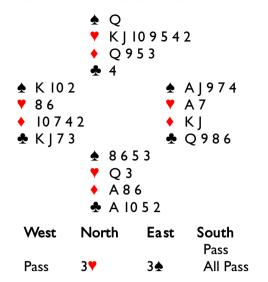
Board 30. None. Dealer East



South has a strong hand and eventually manages to get North to do something.

Unless the defenders lead spades or set up the ▼10 as an entry, 3◆ fails. 4♣ makes East-West, with one trick in each side suit to lose.

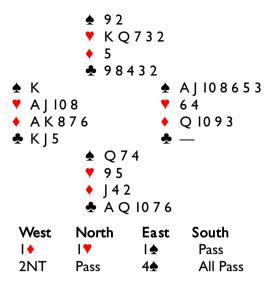
Board 31. N/S. Dealer South



East might have placed West with 8 HCP, so West does not have enough to raise.

If South starts with one of the minor-suit aces, North can score a ruff to be sure of a fourth defensive trick. Declarer might broach trumps by running the Φ J (catering for Q-x-x-x with South) and lose a trump trick even after a heart lead.

Board 32. E/W. Dealer West



Reaching even a small slam in diamonds will be tough at matchpoint scoring.

You can make $7 \spadesuit$ by playing the $\bigstar K$ and $\bigstar A$ on the same trick and then taking a ruffing finesse against the $\bigstar Q$.

In a spade contract a heart lead lets the defenders make a trick in each major.