

ECatsBridge Pairs
for BBC Children in Need
Thursday 14th November 2019
Session No 7521



Well ... another year has gone by and here we are again with another edition of the Children in Need Pairs. Last year we (well you really) got to the one million pound mark - truly truly amazing. So ... I guess it's onward and upward towards the second million !!

Julian Pottage wrote the commentary for this set - Did he get it right I wonder ? Our thanks go to him as always - we really appreciate the effort that goes in to writing these commentaries.

So ... did you win ? or did you have a disaster ? Or just, as we hope, an enjoyable evening's bridge helping to raise money for a wonderful cause ?

Thank you all for coming along to your clubs and supporting us - we really hope you had fun and enjoyed the hands. I hope they weren't too difficult, but equally not too easy either. I haven't actually looked at them myself, just ran the dealing program and winged them off to the commentators with my fingers crossed. No use asking Mark to look at them of course - he has never played bridge - now is that sensible or foolhardy ?

Take care - and continue to enjoy your bridge

With our very best wishes

Anna & Mark

Anna Gudge & Mark Newton
The ECatsBridge Team
anna@ecats.co.uk
<https://www.ecatsbridge.com>

Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

After responding 1♠ to 1♦ and seeing East rebid 2♣, West might raise to 3♣ or risk 2NT to protect the ♥Q. East would raise 2NT to 3NT and might well bid 3NT over 3♣. If South throws in a Michaels 2♣ overcall to show the majors, West could bid 2♠ to show a decent hand with spade values. If you play the clubs right, cashing the king and running the nine, you can always make 10 tricks. An 11th comes if North leads the ♠K or a heart.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

At favourable vulnerability with a strong five-card suit and a good shape, East opens a weak 2♥. After West doubles South's 2NT overcall, North escapes. While 500 is available against 3♦ doubled or 3♠ doubled, most will play in 4♥. After the 2NT overcall, declarer may well finesse South for the ♥J but will probably not take the double club finesse and so emerges with 11 tricks. If you guess well, you can make 12 tricks in a club contract.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

South is too good for a weak 2♥ at favourable vulnerability and opens either 3♥ or 1♥. North raises hearts either way and East comes in with an unusual NT bid to show the minors. If that bid is 4NT (after 3♥-Pass-4♥), West is going to pot 6♣. The club slam is an excellent contract, making even with the ♦K offside. It is tougher psychologically to reach a slam if South opens 1♥. Because 6♥ doubled is down only 500, 620 may not be bad score for East-West.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

West, who is unquestionably strong enough to reverse, opens 1♥. North is a bit flat to overcall 2♦ but might double. East can bid 1♠ either way. If North has doubled, South jumps to 3♠. West can rebid 4♣ to show the club shortage and spade support. With the ♠Q offside and an attentive South likely to lead the ♦K, 5♠ is not safe and some East-West pairs will get too high. 5♠ doubled would go down a trick too many.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

Playing 4-card majors, North opens 1♠ and South responds 2♣. I play a 3NT rebid as showing 15-16 or a poor 17, with only four spades. With no tens or nines and a lifeless 4333 shape, the North hand qualifies as a poor 17. If North opens a strong 1NT, South will be interested in a slam if a fit is present but not without. If East leads the ♠J, you will need to guess very well to make 12 tricks in NT. If East leads a red card, you still need one good view.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

With great hearts and insufficient values for a reverse South opens 1♥. After responding 1♠ and seeing a 2♦ rebid, North might give false preference to 2♥. Repeated club leads work best against a heart contract. Indeed if South tries ruffing clubs twice, gambling on a 3-3 heart break, even 3♥ could fail. The defenders just have the two minor-suit aces to take against a diamond contract.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

East may have a tricky choice if West opens 1♦ and rebids 3♣ over a 1♥ response. The values in the majors suggest 3NT while the strength of the hand and club support suggest a club slam is possible. Of course, West may rebid 3♦ or 2♣, in which case East has an easier decision. You can make 11 tricks in no-trumps via the normal play in the diamond suit of running (or trying to run) the ♦10. 6♣ is makeable if you can see all the hands by felling the ♥Q with a ruff.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

If West opens a weak 1NT and North comes in with 2♠, East might bid 3♦ (if forcing) or try a conventional way to show no four-card major and no spade stopper. It should be possible to reach 5♦ rather than the hopeless 3NT. You do not need to guess the hearts to take 5♦ since you can take the club finesse and set up the long clubs. 5♣ also makes, again without the need to guess the hearts, because the diamonds will run.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North-South will surely get too high on this deal. The combination of diamond wastage facing the void and the honours in the rounded suits that West has means the question is whether 4♥ goes down one or two rather than whether it makes. Unless West helpfully leads the ♣K, down two appears normal, though if declarer could see all the hands an endplay against East is possible on any lead bar a low trump.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

North might get to open 1♣ in fourth seat, which East doubles. South may bid 1♥ over that, ignoring the double. For a rebid North must then choose between a heavy 1♠, a pushy 2♣ or an off-centre 2NT. If North declares, 3NT is makeable. Suppose East leads the ♦2. You go up with the ♦K, take the club finesse and, once East has no more clubs, lead the ♦J. East has to switch to the ♠J to avoid giving you a red trick but, if West overtakes, you can win.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

If West does not open, North opens 1♦ and South responds 1♠. North then rebids 2NT, whether or not West overcalls, and South raises to 3NT. If West opens 1♥, North might overcall 1NT and get raised (perhaps via Stayman) or might overcall 2♦ and bid 3NT after South raises to 3♦. While a club lead, if West has passed throughout, would stop any overtricks, a heart lead sets up the ♥K for 10 tricks and leaves West open to a strip squeeze for 11.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

On this misfit deal, the bidding should stay low, although the final resting place might well be a doubled contract. After 1♠ and two passes, if South reopens with double, North will pass. It takes the ♥K lead or the ♠A followed by a switch to the ♥K to be sure of beating it. South is more likely to reopen with 2♥ and, if West decides to double, East might leave it in. 2♥ (doubled) is cold; declarer takes the spade finesse and ruffs some spades in hand.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

With 16 winners, North-South ought to reach 7NT at many tables. If the bidding happens to start 1♥-2♦-3♣, South does not need to know anything else. With only 14 HCP North might not make the high reverse, which makes life a bit harder. After 1♥-2♦-2♥-2♠, it is vital to know whether 2♠ creates a game forcing since this determines which of 2NT and 3NT is then stronger for North. Woe betide anyone in 7♥ – but the solid diamonds say to play in NT.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

East-West will be glad they are not playing rubber bridge on this round! Although you can make 7♣ by ruffing three spades in the North hand, you might prefer to play for the hearts to come in. 6NT is where you want to be looking at only the North-South cards. Once South shows strong no-trump values (by 1♠-2♠-2NT or by opening a strong 1NT), North counts the values for 6NT. So long as West keeps spades and East hearts, 12 tricks are the limit.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

At IMP scoring North-South would reach 3NT. Matchpoints does less to reward bidding game and some pairs will stop short. Despite the doubleton ♣Q, 3NT goes down if East leads a diamond or if somehow West starts on lead and kicks off with a spade. If North shows 15-17 and South invites game, the 5-card club suit will persuade North to treat the hand as maximum and advance to game.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

After West opens 1♣, North overcalls 1♠ and East bids INT, South raises to 2♠ or (bidding to the level of fit) 3♠. West would compete to 3♣ over 2♠ but passes over 3♠. So long as West does not switch to hearts or give a ruff and discard, 3♠ fails with two trumps and one trick in each side suit to lose. East-West can make 3NT or 5♣ by dropping the ♠ K offside – you might do it in 5♣ as the East hand is otherwise short of entries for leading hearts twice.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

Playing a weak NT (or if North judges the hand too strong for a strong NT) North opens 1♣. South responds 1♥ and West throws in a 2♠ weak jump overcall. North bids 2NT and South will want to investigate a 5-3 heart fit. As the cards lie you can make 11 in hearts or NT; you need to play in clubs to make an extra trick – and that will only do you any good if you bid 6♣. 420 would be worth few matchpoints.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

East might open a weak INT and play there. On the normal lead of the ♣Q, declarer can come to 9 tricks by knocking out the ♦A and later leading up to the ♠K. The inspired lead of a low spade should give the defenders a fifth trick because North can switch to a club at trick two. If South doubles INT a bit light, this might turn out well since North will retreat to 2♠ and can make that. 3♦ is an easy make for East-West.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

Normally West gets to open 1♦ in second seat. Then East dredges up a 1♥ response and South overcalls 1♠. After that West's 2NT rebid ends the auction. The defenders should come to four spades, a club and a heart to defeat 2NT by a trick. North holds up the ♣K to shut out the long clubs. East-West fare better in clubs. They can make 9 tricks easily, with some chance of 10 depending upon the lead.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

After West opens 1♦ and East responds 1♠, South cannot really do anything but overcall 4♥, even though the hand is stronger than one might expect. West cannot justify bidding 4♠ on a hand that would have bid only 2♠ without the overcall, so East gets to double. Only then does West bid 4♠. With a singleton spade and three hearts, North clearly goes on to 5♥. Dummy's strong diamond spots mean that only a club lead is sure to beat 5♥ doubled. 4♠ is makeable.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

1♠-2♣-2♥-4♥ seems the likely auction for East-West. West surely does not raise only to 3♥ (unless played as forcing). Somewhat oddly the best lead against 4♥ is a club because this attacks communications. On the more likely diamond lead declarer might arrange to ruff two diamonds in hand to score 11 tricks (one spade, four hearts, four clubs and two ruffs). 420 will probably be more common than 450.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

With all the values outside the spade suit, South opens 1♠ or passes – 2♣ is not this hand! If South passes, West might open 3♥, an unusual case of a vulnerable pre-empt with a six-card suit. If South opens 1♠, West might make a Michaels 2♣ overcall to show hearts and a minor. Given the vulnerability, most auctions lead to 4♣. So long as West does not lead a heart, the defenders hold this to 10 tricks. 5♦ doubled and 5♥ doubled would be down 500.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

North-South have a third biddable slam of the session. If South opens a Benjamin 2♣ and later shows a big spade suit and admits to a diamond control, North surely bids a slam. Indeed North might wonder how South could have a strong opening bid with queen high diamonds and not bother with any cue bids. West needs to cash the ♦A or declarer can easily ruff the hearts good to make 13 tricks. If you are making only 12 tricks, you score better in 6NT.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

Style will have an impact here. If you open 1♦ with 4-4 in the minors, you will find the fit in the suit and be able as a partnership to compete to 3♦. If you open 1♣, a variety of things could happen. North-South can make 8 tricks in a heart contract, losing three clubs and the two red aces. East-West go one down in 3♦, losing three tricks in spades and one in each red suit. 1♣ should just about scrape home while 2♣ would be down one.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North opens 1♠, East doubles, South bids 2♣ (in Acol) and West 2♥. North's free rebid of 2♣ then shows a 6-card suit and South can just scrape up a raise. North has an easy decision to go on to 4♣. After East leads a top heart, West's signal and the bidding should make it clear to continue hearts. The defenders thus make three tricks in the majors to stop any overtrick. 5♥ doubled goes for 800, the ♥8 and ♥10 being useful cards; 500 would be too much anyway.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

Playing a weak NT, 1♦-1NT-2NT-3NT could be the East-West sequence. Playing a strong NT West is the one who invites and East the one who accepts. If West declares, a spade lead gives nothing away while setting up the suit. If East declares, a heart lead gives declarer a third heart trick and more time. If you guess well, you can make 10 tricks even after a spade lead but most will make that only after a heart lead.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

West's 2NT opening might silence North. If so, East transfers into spades but probably without trying for a slam. The East-West cards fit well, with 6♠ essentially depending on either no trump loser or the ♥K with South. You would want to be it – well done if you got there with confidence. If West declares, 13 tricks roll in. If East declares, North might score a heart ruff at trick one. 7NT is a very lucky make needing both majors to run and a double squeeze.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

East has the biggest point count and opens with a game force, 2♣ in Acol, 2♦ in Benjamin. After West's negative or waiting response, East shows the hearts. With four-card heart support and an ace, West has quite a good hand in context. If East-West have exchanged cue bids and stopped in 4♥ (2♣-2♦-2♥-3♥-3♠-4♦-4♥), South might find the ♣A lead. Without a club lead (and continuation) one of West's clubs goes on the fourth diamond and 12 tricks result.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

North opens 1♥, South responds 2♦ and West overcalls 2♠. North is a bit light and a bit flat for 3♣ but might bid it anyway. East competes to 3♠ and South can hardly bid less than 5♣ if North has bid the suit. East doubles 5♣ and collects 500 after a spade lead. Even if North passes over 2♠, South will bid clubs and again it will be hard to stop short of 5♣. 4♠ should fail by a trick, losing three hearts and a diamond.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

After East opens 1♥, a 3♦ weak jump overcall is slightly imperfect on the South cards (the 6322 shape and defensive doubleton queen both being less than ideal). East would reopen with a double and West would probably pass. You can get out for down one in 3♦ doubled by ruffing the third round of hearts high and then playing three rounds of clubs followed by the ♥J. 2♠, hard to reach, is the best East-West can make.

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

If South opens a weak 1NT, East doubles in the pass out seat. North may then have a way to show clubs and a higher suit, enabling a run out to 2♥. Someone is going to double 2♥. With so many finesses working for North-South, the defence against 2♥ doubled as a bit scary. The problem for declarer is getting to the North hand enough times to play through East's high cards. East-West might make 8 tricks with any other suit as trumps or 7 tricks in no-trumps.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

With or without a 2♦ overcall from South, West and East bid 1♠-2♣-2♠-3♣-4♣. With the ♠Q on-side and no hostile breaks, 11 tricks roll in. With both black suits friendly, you can in fact make 11 tricks in 3NT but surely nobody gets there. Despite the favourable vulnerability North-South do not have a profitable sacrifice. Both 5♥ doubled and 5♦ doubled would go down 800.

Please read me !!

Hopefully you have read this far because we have yet another favour to ask you !

Mark and I use eBay to sell items to raise funds for RNLI - mostly stamps or old bank notes ... things with some small value that are easy to post. If you have anything like that and could send it to us - well that would be marvellous! Every little helps and living as we do on a fairly small island off the top of Scotland we are very aware of the value of the RNLI and the courage of all its volunteers and want to do our bit to support them.

Did you know that we run a lot of other Simultaneous Pairs ?

Our special Charity ones are held during the year - the January one (with no master points) raises money for UNICEF; the March one, the Charity Challenge will be raising funds for RNLI in 2019, and there is the Kidney Research one in July.

In addition there are Scottish, Irish, Welsh and Celtic Sims.

The EBU licence covers affiliated clubs for the Charity events, and we run a special session for non-affiliated English clubs so they are not excluded.

All the details are on the website - probably best to have a look at the calendar which is at: <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/info/calendar.asp> as details about each of the events is linked from there.