

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Mike Pomfrey

Wednesday
6th September 2023

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge.

At EBED we focus on two priorities:

- A national bridge education and training framework and,
- Youth bridge initiatives to encourage those still in full time education to learn and play bridge.

EBED supports students and bridge teachers to use the “Bridge for All” syllabus, a coherent framework that takes learners from complete beginner through to competent club player. We provide focussed training for bridge teachers, and make a huge range of teaching materials, available to the hundreds of bridge teachers who are members of EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association). We support club bridge by providing training of club tournament directors. In 2022 over 100 people qualified with us as club directors and are now helping their clubs to run sessions.

In support of Youth Bridge, we run several events for school level bridge players, including the Schools Cup, Inter-Schools League and Youth Grand Prix. We also run the Junior Summer Camp. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. We provide resources to help schools run bridge clubs.

You can read more about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk.

If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate.

I hope that you enjoy playing these hands and competing against others, I’ll be playing these at my club too.

We sincerely thank you for your support.

Mark Humphris

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠Q104 ♥K63 ♦A10964 ♣75</p> <p>♠A8763 ♠K95 ♥4 ♥AJ752 ♦K8 ♦72 ♣AQJ93 ♣1086</p> <p>♠J2 ♥Q1098 ♦QJ53 ♣K42</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table>				West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																
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<div><div><div>♠ 52</div><div>♥ A5</div><div>♦ A10542</div><div>♣ A932</div></div><div><div>♠ Q1097</div><div>♥ 92</div><div>♦ KQJ96</div><div>♣ J8</div></div><div><div>♠ J64</div><div>♥ KJ1073</div><div>♦ 3</div><div>♣ 7654</div></div><div><div>♠ AK83</div><div>♥ Q864</div><div>♦ 87</div><div>♣ KQ10</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>14</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12	5	9	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	3	3	2	3		S	4	3	3	2	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr></table>?</div> <div>South is almost too good for a weak no trump, but most will bid it. Would you risk an Aspro overcall as West? You are vulnerable against not and having only a four-card major means you sometimes have to play at an uncomfortable level. Moreover, you have a nice lead if they stay in no trumps. As it happens, it could be expensive to bid. If West passes, North bids game and West leads a top diamond. If declarer ducks, West probably plays another and dummy wins. East does best to discard a heart, not a club, as there’s a small chance declarer will take a first-round finesse in clubs, expecting East to have greater length in the suit. Unless declarer has an excess of imagination, all roads should lead to nine tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT								
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<div><div><div>♠ A53</div><div>♥ K10543</div><div>♦ 9</div><div>♣ 10865</div></div><div><div>♠ K87642</div><div>♥ 8</div><div>♦ QJ103</div><div>♣ J3</div></div><div><div>♠ Q10</div><div>♥ Q72</div><div>♦ K8764</div><div>♣ AQ4</div></div><div><div>♠ J9</div><div>♥ AJ96</div><div>♦ A52</div><div>♣ K972</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>71313</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	7	71313	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	4	-	1		S	4	-	4	-	1		E	-	3	-	1	-		W	-	3	-	1	-	
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<div><div><div>♠ 974</div><div>♥ 1082</div><div>♦ A53</div><div>♣ J1042</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ102</div><div>♥ K743</div><div>♦ K8</div><div>♣ K63</div></div><div><div>♠ 653</div><div>♥ AJ65</div><div>♦ QJ74</div><div>♣ A9</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ8</div><div>♥ Q9</div><div>♦ 10962</div><div>♣ Q875</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>15128</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	5	15128	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	5	6	6	6		W	3	5	6	6	6	
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Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

What's this? North-South have a game in hearts, provided they get the trumps right, and they sell out to 2♠? What's more, it's not easy to get your diamond ruffs with East as declarer, so 2♠ may well make.

There are two ways for North-South to get in the auction. One is for North to double the transfer bid to show hearts. I don't like that very much with West still unlimited.

The other way is for South to double 2♠ for takeout. That's more realistic, though still risky as North could be very weak.

I suspect West will compete to 3♠ anyway and North-South will give up, but at least they are pretty certain to get a plus score.

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

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

At favourable vulnerability many Easts will consider this hand worth an opening bid, and 1NT is a far better description than 1♥. It makes no difference to the contract, or to who plays it.

With no attractive alternative, South probably leads a club. Best is to win with the jack (you can always repeat the finesse later) and try a diamond to the jack. South wins and has a choice between continuing clubs or trying a low heart. It matters not, as declarer's next move is a diamond to the king. Now we see the real benefit of our play at trick one. We can finesse in clubs and still be in hand to finesse in diamonds, cashing the ace of hearts first and getting the good news.

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Pass	?	

I've not put an auction here as it all depends on your methods. Those who play a Jacoby 2NT as forcing to game will probably just about wheel it out here. For me 2NT is either a sound raise to three or better than just game so I'd bid 3NT as a balanced raise to game only.

Whatever your system all roads will end in 4♥, apart from the odd pair who try no trumps.

As we can see, both spade finesses win and the queen of trumps is doubleton offside. However, without X-ray vision you'll probably take all the finesses going, losing a trump but emerging with eleven tricks.

<div><div><div>♠A87</div><div>♥J102</div><div>♦QJ76</div><div>♣Q104</div></div><div><div>♠KQ96543</div><div>♥K</div><div>♦4</div><div>♣9876</div></div><div><div>♠J10</div><div>♥A8653</div><div>♦1093</div><div>♣K53</div></div><div><div>♠2</div><div>♥Q974</div><div>♦AK852</div><div>♣AJ2</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		10	8	8	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	5	4	-	3		S	-	5	4	-	3		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<div>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This one looks as though it's going to be interesting, but in practice may turn out rather straightforward. West has a very solid pre-empt and South an obvious double. Now what is North supposed to do? I guess Hamman's rule applies; if you have a choice of bids, one of which is 3NT, that's the one to go for. Anything else would be speculative on North's hand. East leads spades and you take the second round. It looks clear to try the club finesse, which gives you nine tricks. 4♠ doubled would be only two down; should East-West have bid it? I wouldn't save with the East hand; it may well be too expensive, and you can't be certain 3NT will make. Maybe West should have opened 4♠? I imagine some will.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3NT	All Pass									
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<div><div><div>♠K874</div><div>♥A764</div><div>♦A4</div><div>♣1083</div></div><div><div>♠QJ</div><div>♥K3</div><div>♦K108532</div><div>♣Q76</div></div><div><div>♠109653</div><div>♥J95</div><div>♦96</div><div>♣AK9</div></div><div><div>♠A2</div><div>♥Q1082</div><div>♦QJ7</div><div>♣J542</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11	8	11	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	3	-	1		S	2	-	3	-	1		E	-	1	-	1	-		W	-	1	-	1	-		<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>The computer says that 2♦ will fail. The best defence looks to be to keep leading clubs and force declarer eventually to open up the hearts. I suspect some will get home by using dummy's spades to exert pressure. But North-South could have made 3♥, with the aid of a successful view in trumps, and they haven't even bid! It looks as though the only time they could have got into the auction is for North to scrape up a double on the first round. It's not to my taste, vulnerable, opposite a passed partner, with eight losers and empty suits. But there's no arguing with success, so long as South doesn't get too excited.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass		
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<div><div><div>♠9652</div><div>♥QJ754</div><div>♦K5</div><div>♣KJ</div></div><div><div>♠KQ4</div><div>♥AK9</div><div>♦9</div><div>♣Q86432</div></div><div><div>♠AJ1083</div><div>♥103</div><div>♦J83</div><div>♣A107</div></div><div><div>♠7</div><div>♥862</div><div>♦AQ107642</div><div>♣95</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		10	10	14	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	1	-	-		S	-	2	1	-	-		E	5	-	-	5	-		W	5	-	-	5	-		<div>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>After the overcall, 1♠ shows a five-card suit (you would double with only four). 3♦ is a jump fit, showing a diamond suit and heart support. West's 3♠ is perhaps a slight underbid; if double were a game try in spades in your system, that might be your choice. 4♠ is a comfortable contract, even with the 4-1 trump break; be careful to establish the club suit before drawing trumps. Some North-South pairs may save in diamonds; there's perhaps a case for North to try 4♦ on the second round, but the hand as a whole is poor. 5♦ doubled is, in theory, too expensive, so long as the defenders find their heart ruff.</div>	West	North	East	South	1♣	1♥	1♠	3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass				
HCP																																																																	
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3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																														
<div><div><div>♠K52</div><div>♥QJ2</div><div>♦J109</div><div>♣K732</div></div><div><div>♠1087</div><div>♥9875</div><div>♦AQ73</div><div>♣84</div></div><div><div>♠AQJ3</div><div>♥K63</div><div>♦K542</div><div>♣105</div></div><div><div>♠964</div><div>♥A104</div><div>♦86</div><div>♣AQJ96</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>11</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		10	13	6	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	-	-		S	2	-	-	-	-		E	-	2	2	2	-		W	-	2	2	2	-		<div>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>Curious hand, as Victor Mollo's Oscar the Owl would have said. Against a No Trump contract either side can make eight tricks in defence. But they may not do so. Would you lead a club from the South hand? Not I; I'd much prefer a passive spade lead and hope partner can get in to lead clubs through declarer's imagined king. East promptly runs for home and claims 120. Oh well, another bottom. If South does manage to find a club lead, presumably the queen, North must return the queen of hearts when in with the club king.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	All Pass								
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<div><div><div>♠A84</div><div>♥A64</div><div>♦J952</div><div>♣KJ10</div></div><div><div>♠K10972</div><div>♥KJ73</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣853</div></div><div><div>♠QJ5</div><div>♥95</div><div>♦AQ3</div><div>♣A9764</div></div><div><div>♠63</div><div>♥Q1082</div><div>♦K10764</div><div>♣Q2</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		13	13	7	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	1	-	-		S	-	3	1	-	-		E	2	-	-	3	-		W	2	-	-	3	-		<div>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This looks a pretty standard auction to a standard contract. Although South can infer that partner has a fair hand there's no way into the auction, with hearts marked on your left and possibly diamonds on your right.</p> <p>Nine tricks looks like the likely outcome. The defence may threaten to prevent heart ruffs in the dummy by leading trumps, but declarer can counter by ducking a club, planning to establish the suit for possible discards. Maybe a few declarers will try a diamond finesse, hoping to discard a club loser; that won't be a success.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass						
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HCP																																																																					
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