



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Mike Pomfrey

Wednesday 12th May 2021

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. EBED have worked hard in the past year to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved through initiatives such as the development of our e-learning portal EBS (English Bridge School) and support to enable our trained EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association) teachers transition to online lessons. EBED also supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. You can read more about EBED's activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at <u>www.ebedcio.org.uk</u>. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at <u>www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate</u>. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

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

	¢Q	65					Board 1	: Dealer I	North : Lo	ove all	
	V K	Q10	87				West	North	East	South	
	• Q	62						1NT	Pass	2*	
	♣A	4					Pass	2 🗸	All pas	s	
♠ K72			▲ 10	03			1 455	2 •	711 pus	5	
v 2			♥ A	43				+1		was a subject of the training and the subject of th	
♦ 9875			♦ A	KJ1	103			this you	say? I m	recommending an auction that misses a cold	
♣ K8732			\$ 9	65			game?	_			
	▲ AJ984			Well, it's a very marginal decision whether that North hand is a weak							
	¥J9	965					no trump or whether it's too strong. If it's a weak no trump then South				
	♦ 4						certainly hasn't enough to bid on. But, even so, if you treat it as a $1 \checkmark$				
	♣ Q	J 10					opening, South has no more than an invitational raise, so do you get there				
							anyway	?			
НСР		Ma	akeabl	e co	ntra	cts		Game is obviously pretty reasonable; with the club finesse working			
			* •	•	•	NT				ald it fail, you still have a chance of bringing in	
		N		4	Ū	-			-		
6 12 9		S E	3 3	4	3	-	I the space	Jes. A lot	of match	points ride on very marginal decisions.	
		W	3 4	-	-	-					

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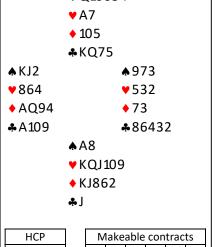
♠A92	Board 2	: Dealer E	ast : NS v	vulnerable		
♥Q5	West	North	East	South		
♦ J7			1NT	Pass		
♣A106542 ♠1087	2NT	Pass	3♦	All pass		
 ♥ A10876 3 ♦ K10 ♣ KJ3 	Has the computer got a theme in mind for this set? That's two hands out of two where a weak no trump is a sensible choice despite the five card					
▲ K54	major.					
∀ K432	This time East has a clear cut weak no trump. All those intermediates					
♦AQ2	make it worth an opening bid. If your system allows, you could investigate a spade fit as West and then subside in 3. Mine doesn't so I have to play in 2. That's going to be at least a couple off, which I'm afraid will be					
♣ Q97						

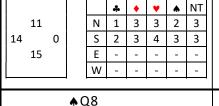
HCP Makeable contracts ▲ NT * ٠ 11 Ν 4 1 1 1 4 4 11 S 4 1 1 2 14 Е W an ▲Q10654 B

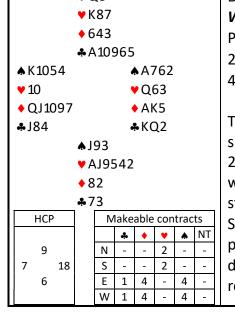
▲QJ63 **v** J9

*****8

986543







ubside in 3. Mine doesn't so I have to play in 3. That's going to be at least a couple off, which I'm afraid will be a pretty poor score. You may console yourself by saying that North can make 3NT, so long as one avoids the reasonable, but losing, line of two club finesses. South can't make 3NT, of course, on a heart lead. But not many will get to game

cun c ma		course, c	in a ficult icua. De			
anyway, and certainly not from the right side.						
Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
			1♥			
Pass	1♠	Pass	2 ♦			
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT			
All pass						

With East-West passing throughout, the first four bids look pretty straightforward. At this point I don't think South has a problem. Although you are 5-5, partner clearly doesn't have a heart fit, your own are solid and you have no intention of playing in diamonds. So where else should you look but 3NT?

West has a horrible lead against 3NT. Funnily enough, a passive heart looks best, otherwise declarer can bring in the spades and probably make ten tricks.

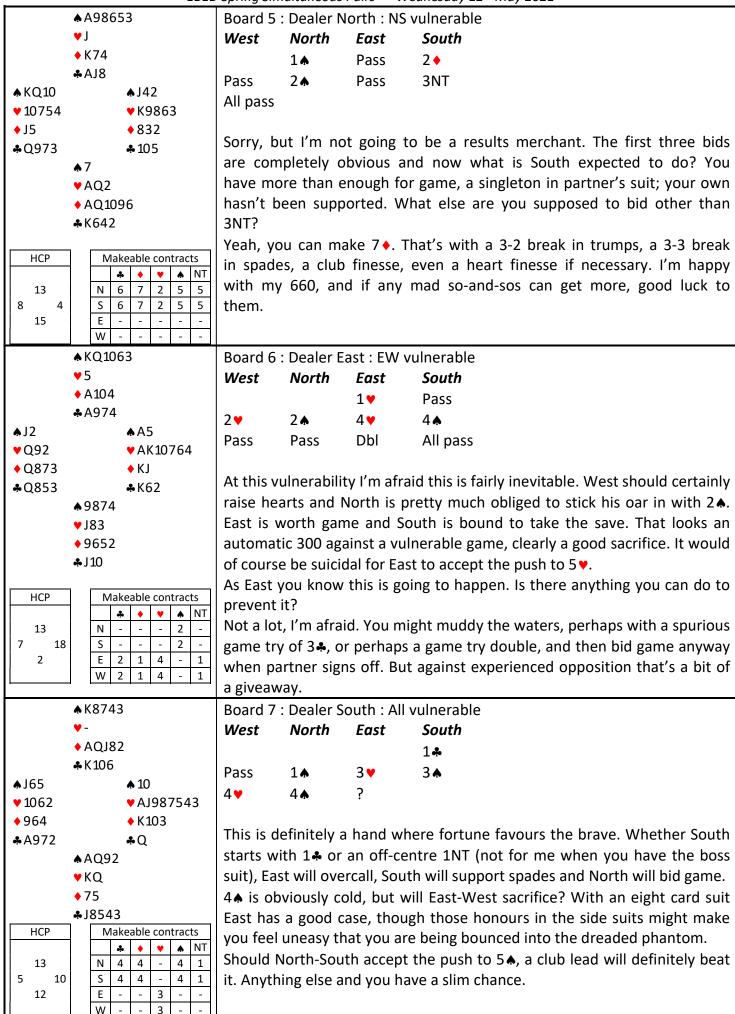
That odd overtrick will make all the difference between a moderate score and a very good one.

Board 4 :	Dealer W	'est : All vเ	ulnerable
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All pass		

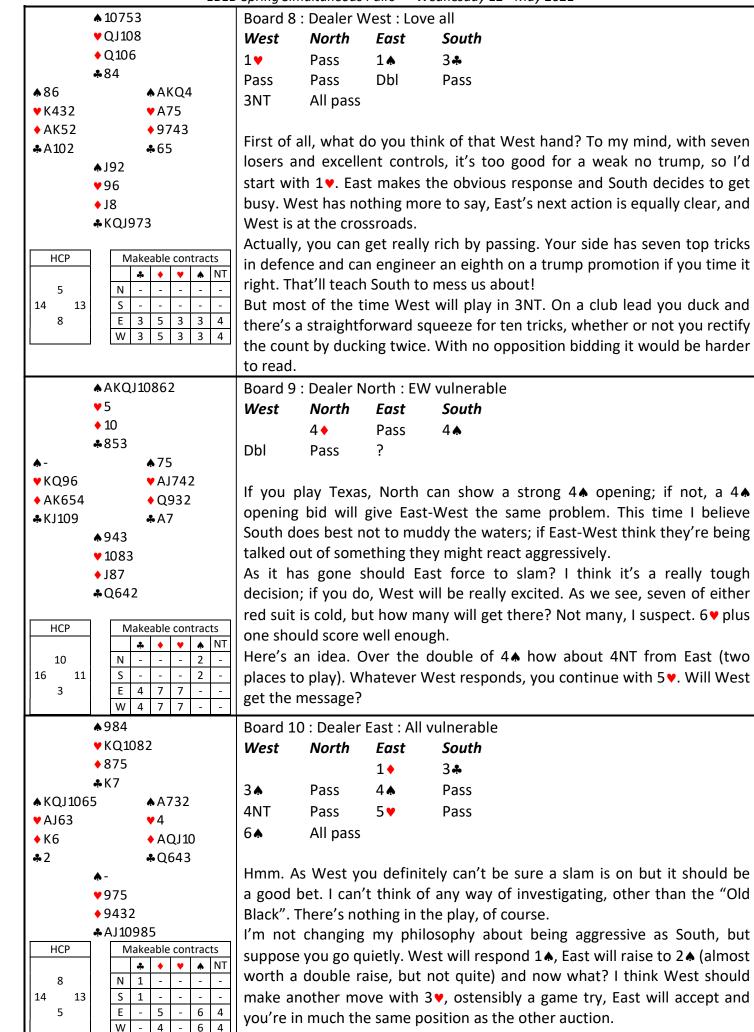
This all looks fairly natural, in the old style, but it's not. First, after partner single raises your opening bid, surely nothing could be more obvious than 2NT on a balanced 18 count? This 18 count, however, is pretty ghastly, with seven losers and not much in trick taking potential. I would be strongly tempted to pass at pairs.

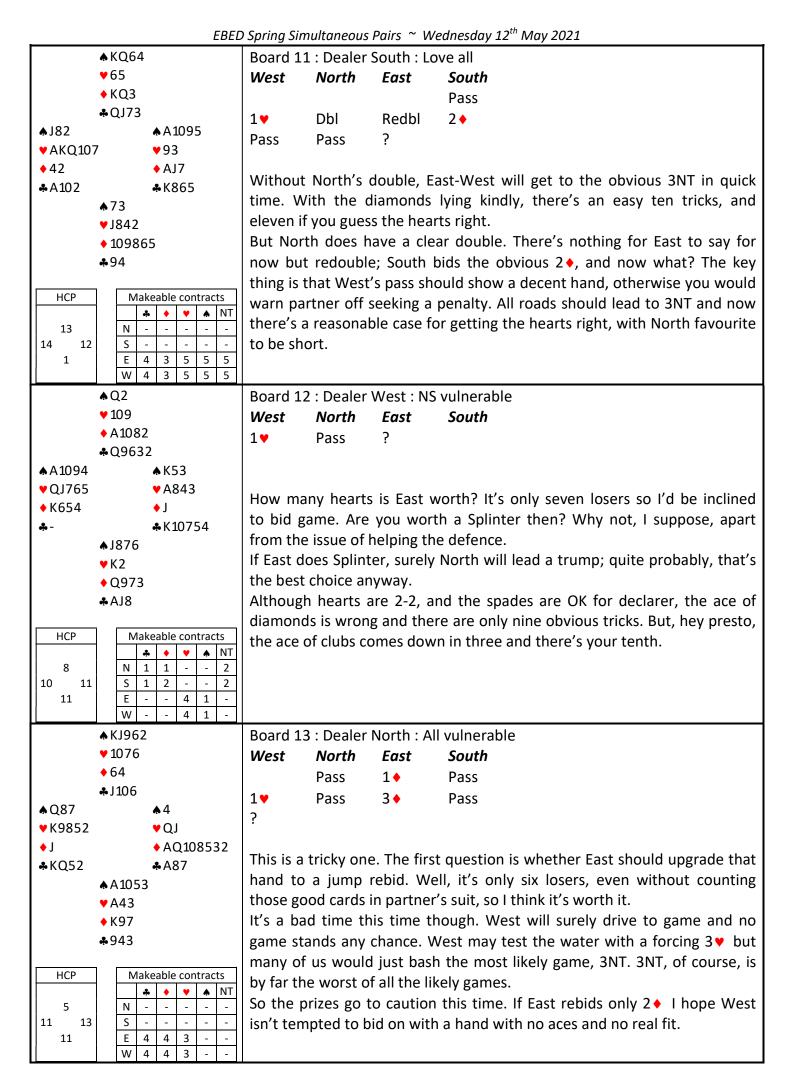
So is 2 the right response? I think not, with a good side suit, much better playing potential than your point count suggests, not to mention little in defence. If your system allows, it looks more like a semi pre-emptive 3 A response to me. That gets you to the solid game by an easier route.

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East

Pass

East

Pass

East

Pass

All pass

2 ♦

South

South

1 🗸

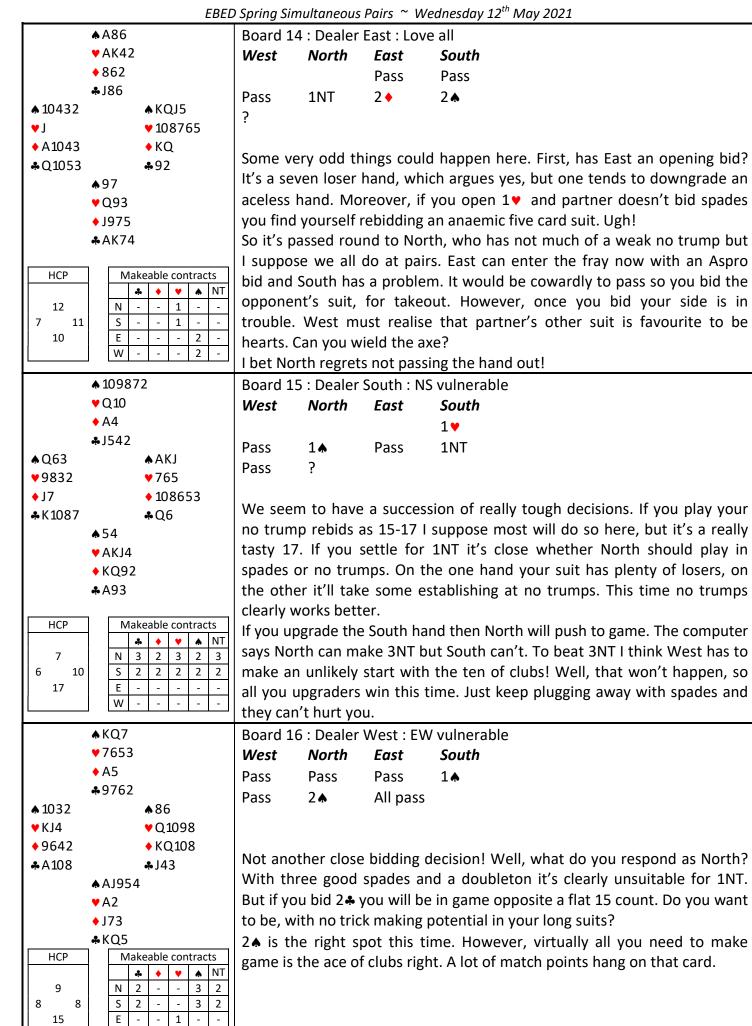
1NT

South

1 🛦

Pass

2



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1 3			
Board 17 <i>West</i>	: Dealer I	North : Lo	ve all
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1*	1 🗸
3♣	3♥	?	

As usual I think one should open the lower of two four card minors, just as you would with the majors in an otherwise balanced hand. I guess South has to overcall, if only to help partner with the defence. West's 3.4 is more pre-emptive than constructive and North is certainly entitled to raise hearts.

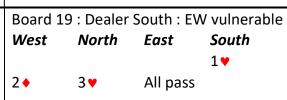
3♥ is actually too high on a part score hand if East-West can defend it doubled. It's a reasonable shot for East to double, if it just shows values, but for many of us it's a game try, which would be a gross overstatement. And if East does double, will West leave it in? I doubt it.

4. is a comfortable make; you have time to test the diamonds and don't even need the spade finesse.

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		1 ♦	Pass			
1♥	2*	Dbl	3*			
4 🗸	All pass					

Vulnerable against not, that's a marginal overcall by North. At teams I'd be inclined to silence. Even with a minimum opening East makes a support double, showing three card heart support. South is happy to raise (at any other score you might bid 4...). With good fitting cards in partner's suit West is happy to bid game.

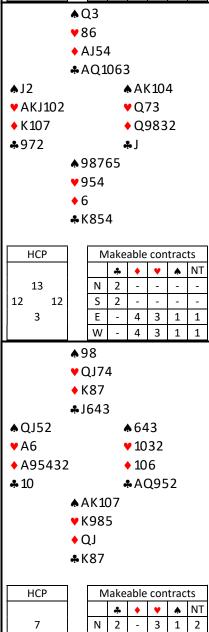
4♥ can be defeated, though it's likely to make against any lead but the ace of diamonds, resulting in two defensive ruffs. Next best is a trump; declarer has to go after club ruffs. You only get one but the happy spade position means you only have to find the jack of diamonds to succeed.



A pre-emptive $3 \lor$ is a bit of a stretch, but at the vulnerability it's a possible choice. Having seen partner's bidding before, and with apparently useless cards in diamonds, South has had enough.

So long as you don't take any odd views in clubs, hearts looks to make an easy nine tricks.

In an odd way North's aggressive bid has backfired. If you bid only 2 V maybe West will back in again and concede rather more than 140 in a spade or diamond part score.



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1 _ 1 3

♦Q862 **∀**J976

♦K63 *****87

▲ 1093

\$32

VAK1053 ♦ J75

▲KJ4

♥84

♦ AQ84

AK105

Makeable contracts

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Е 4 4 1 2 2

W 4

▲ NT

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▲A75

♥Q2

♦ 1092

♣QJ964

HCP

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17

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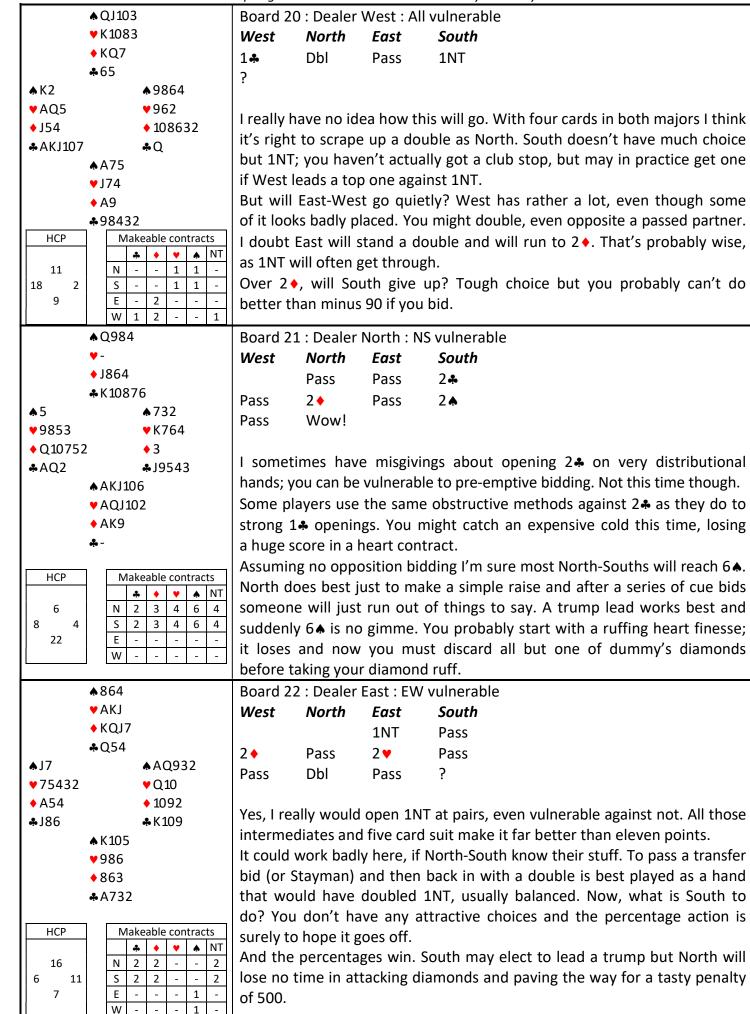
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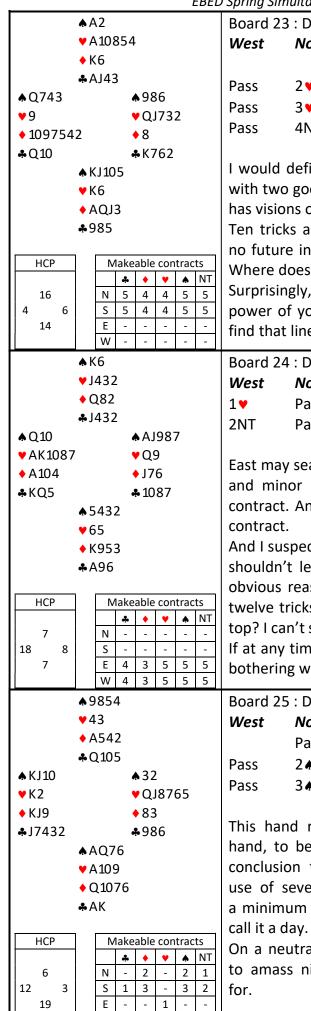
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16

S 2 -

Е w _ 1 -





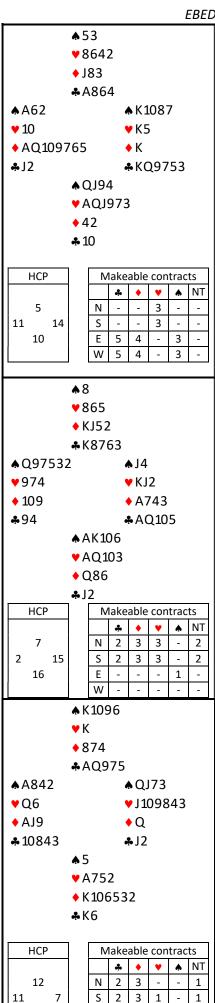
W

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1 _

				ednesday 12 th May 2021
				vulnerable
	West	North	East	South
	D	2	D	
	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
	Pass Pass	3♥ 4NIT	Pass	3NT
	Pass	4NT	All pass	
	with two has vision Ten trick no future Where de Surprisin	good sui ns of slan s are ea e in hear oes that gly, it's o f your 98	its and plein, but calls n, but calls sy but you ts, as it ha elusive tric lubs. Lead	South's hand too good for a weak no trump, nty of playing strength. Expecting 15-19, North it a day in time. a need an eleventh for a good score. There's uppens, and you're likely to lose a spade trick. k come from? I a low one from hand at some stage and the vantage of a very lucky distribution. Who will
╘┽	Board 24	: Dealer	West : Lov	ve all
	West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass
			ngs that s	uggest we'll lose as many tricks in a trump
-	contract. And I sus shouldn's obvious twelve tr top? I can If at any	pect it w t lead a reason to ricks. How n't see it. time the	ill be a ver club, less o switch, o vever, hav	lead to what should be a universally popular by common eleven tricks. I don't see why North than dynamic though it looks. South has no declarer finesses in spades and has visions of ye you any reason not to play hearts from the s lead diamonds, you get eleven tricks without
	contract. And I sus shouldn's obvious twelve tr top? I can If at any bothering Board 25	pect it w t lead a reason to ricks. How n't see it. time the g with a h : Dealer	ill be a ver club, less o switch, o wever, hav defenders neart view. North : EV	y common eleven tricks. I don't see why North than dynamic though it looks. South has no declarer finesses in spades and has visions of re you any reason not to play hearts from the s lead diamonds, you get eleven tricks without V vulnerable
	contract. And I sus shouldn'i obvious twelve tr top? I can If at any bothering	pect it w t lead a reason to ricks. How n't see it. time the g with a h c : Dealer North	ill be a ver club, less o switch, o wever, hav defenders heart view. North : EW East	y common eleven tricks. I don't see why North than dynamic though it looks. South has no declarer finesses in spades and has visions of ye you any reason not to play hearts from the s lead diamonds, you get eleven tricks without V vulnerable South
	contract. And I sus shouldn'i obvious twelve tr top? I can If at any bothering Board 25 <i>West</i>	pect it w t lead a reason to ricks. How n't see it. time the g with a h : Dealer North Pass	ill be a ver club, less o switch, o wever, hav defenders neart view. North : EV East Pass	y common eleven tricks. I don't see why North than dynamic though it looks. South has no declarer finesses in spades and has visions of ye you any reason not to play hearts from the s lead diamonds, you get eleven tricks without wulnerable South 1♠
	contract. And I sus shouldn's obvious twelve tr top? I can If at any bothering Board 25	pect it w t lead a reason to ricks. How n't see it. time the g with a h c : Dealer North	ill be a ver club, less o switch, o wever, hav defenders heart view. North : EW East	y common eleven tricks. I don't see why North than dynamic though it looks. South has no declarer finesses in spades and has visions of ye you any reason not to play hearts from the s lead diamonds, you get eleven tricks without V vulnerable South

On a neutral defence even 3 h is quite enough. You'll need all your skill to amass nine tricks. An endplay on West, hard to visualise, is called



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Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		1*	1♥			
2 🔶	2♥	2♠	3 💙			
Dbl	Pass	4*	Pass			
4 🔶	Pass	?				

I don't know who dealt these hands but they're really tough. Most of the auction is fairly logical, with each side showing its values. West's double suggests doubt as to the final outcome. It would not be at all unreasonable for East to decide to play in game. The problem is, which one? You expect partner to have a good diamond suit and a bit of club support, so where should we play?

If the defence is razor-sharp then 5 • goes down; heart lead, club return and club ruff. 5 • is OK, but it's pretty lucky. On a high spade lead you win with the king, unblock the king of diamonds and play trumps. The fortunate lie of the minors sees you home.

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all						
West	North	East	South			
			1♥			
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass			
2♠	Dbl	All pass				

This matchpoint lark really puts you under pressure, doesn't it? West is too weak for a WJO, even by my standards. North makes the obvious raise and now West can't resist temptation. North's double suggests a decent hand (well, whatever) and South has little choice but to go for blood. Meanwhile, East wonders why it seems to be a sixty point pack!

So how will 2 doubled get on? Heart lead, diamond return and declarer is feeling unhappy. Two down looks about the right result and North-South will be very pleased. East won't.

Board 28	: Dealer V	Vest : NS v	ulnerable
West	North	East	South
Pass	1*	2♥	3 🔶
Pass	3♠	Pass	4 ♦
All pass			

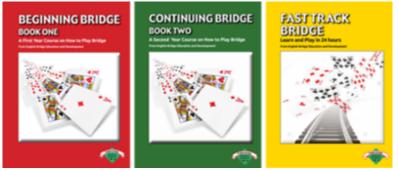
That frivolous looking weak jump overcall by East is a real game changer. Without it, North-South would bid quietly to a part score in no trumps or diamonds. The uncontested auction would go $1 \div -1 \div -1 \div -1$ or $2 \div$. But now the whole thing has got out of hand.

Even 3♦ would be a struggle, anything more is hopeless. It just goes to show that an innocent looking intervention can change the whole complexion of a hand.

East's overcall is technically unsound. In principle, you don't get busy when you may have a better fit elsewhere. However, once West has passed as dealer, East has a free rein to mess around.



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