## Junior Squad Sim Pairs Monday/Tuesday 7-8.02.2022

## Thanks to our commentators:

Charlie Bucknell, member of the Under-26 squad. Charlie is starting his career as a bridge professional and is also starting his own bridge club in Oxford. He has been playing bridge for roughly six years and has never looked back. He started his partnership with Ewa two years ago filling in for a teams event at the local club and has finally found a partner who doesn't mind his unique style.

**Ewa Wieczorek**, member of the Under 26 squad. Ewa is studying for a PhD in Computational Chemistry when she's not playing bridge. She has previously represented England in the U26 Women's team, where she got a bronze medal at the 2017 European Championships. She is now looking forward to developing her partnership with Charlie.

**Imogen La Chapelle**, member of the Under 21 squad. Imogen is in her second year at the University of East Anglia studying Medicine. She started playing bridge at local clubs in Norwich where her talent was soon spotted and nurtured. For the last three years, she has played for Norfolk in the inter-county Tollemache competition, this year being part of the first Norfolk qualifying team since 2007. Imogen has recently formed a partnership with Henry Rose and by coming third at the Year End Swiss Pairs, Imogen hopes they can do really well in her final year of the Under 21s.

Oscar Selby, member of the Under 21 squad. Oscar started playing bridge at 7 years old at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club and has represented England many times at Under 16 and Under 21 levels. He won Young Player of the Year in 2018. Outside of bridge, Oscar gained an A\* in GCSE Maths aged 7 and reached the final week of the TV competition "Child Genius" in 2013. He has also won the British youth Go championships.

**Venetia Anoyrkatis**, member of the Under 16 squad. Venetia lives and goes to school in Devon. She has been part of the squad for the last three years and played in several international events since then. Amongst her successes was winning the EBU Spring Congress Swiss Teams. Venetia is looking forward to playing in the upcoming Peggy Bayer and getting back to face to face bridge.

**Aaron Hutton**, member of the Under 26 squad. Aaron lives in Lincolnshire where he works as a software engineer, having graduated from Cambridge University three years ago. He's played bridge for seven years and been part of the junior squad for the last two.

**Henry Rose**, member of the Under 21 squad. Henry is currently in his last year of school taking A-levels this summer. He first represented England in Italy in 2014 and has played bridge non-stop ever since. His proudest moment is leading his school to win the Schools' Cup for the first time since its inaugural event.

Oliver Powell, member of the Under 26 squad. Oliver is in his final year of junior bridge and currently teaches bridge for a living based in Brighton. He started learning bridge in 2008 and taking bridge seriously when joining the U20 squad in 2012. Oliver made his debut for the England junior team in 2013 and hopes to stamp his final year by going to the junior Europeans in the summer and qualifying the Under 26 team for the World Championship the following year.

**Andy Cope**, member of the Under 21 squad. Andy is currently in his final year of school studying for A-levels. He is hoping to do a Maths and Economics degree at university next year. Andy began playing bridge 8 years ago and made his European championship debut in 2017 playing for the Under 16s. He gained a bronze medal in the online U16 world championship in 2018 and then progressed to playing in international events for the Under 21 team.

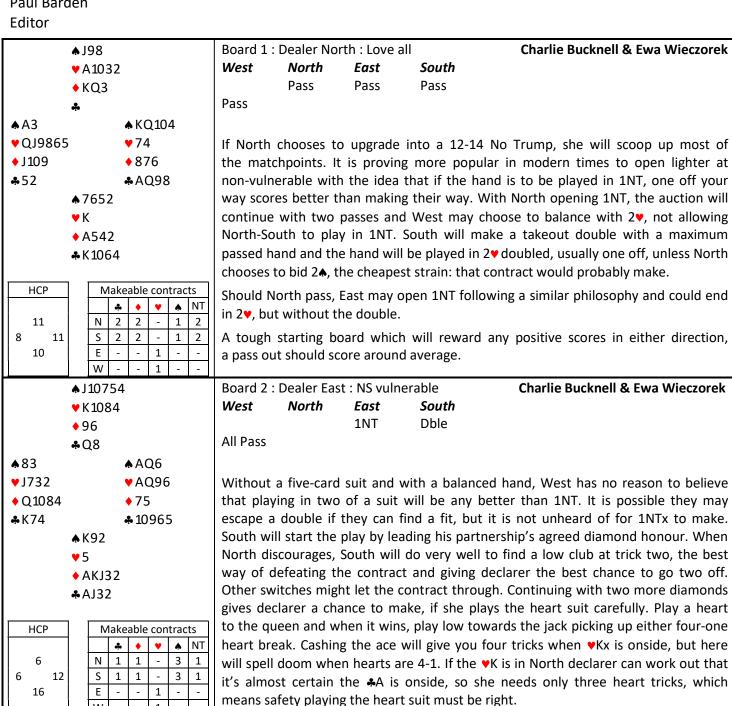
Thank you for taking part in these Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs. I hope you have enjoyed the event and will take pride in having supported our Junior International Teams and the Squad system which trains them.

The Junior World Teams Championships have been postponed for the last two years, then cancelled altogether. Happily, the cycle is starting anew with European Championships in The Netherlands in July this year. We're hopeful that that this event will go ahead, and our Junior Teams (U16, U21, U26 Women, U26) will be able to play face-to-face at the top level again. The EBU provides funding for these teams, and these simultaneous pairs will help pay for it. Other important areas, such as development and teaching, also require financial backing, so that the international budgets are never as large as we would wish. We run the Junior teams as economically as possible: players, captains and coaches are unpaid, and travel and accommodation are as cheap as we can make them, but money remains very tight.

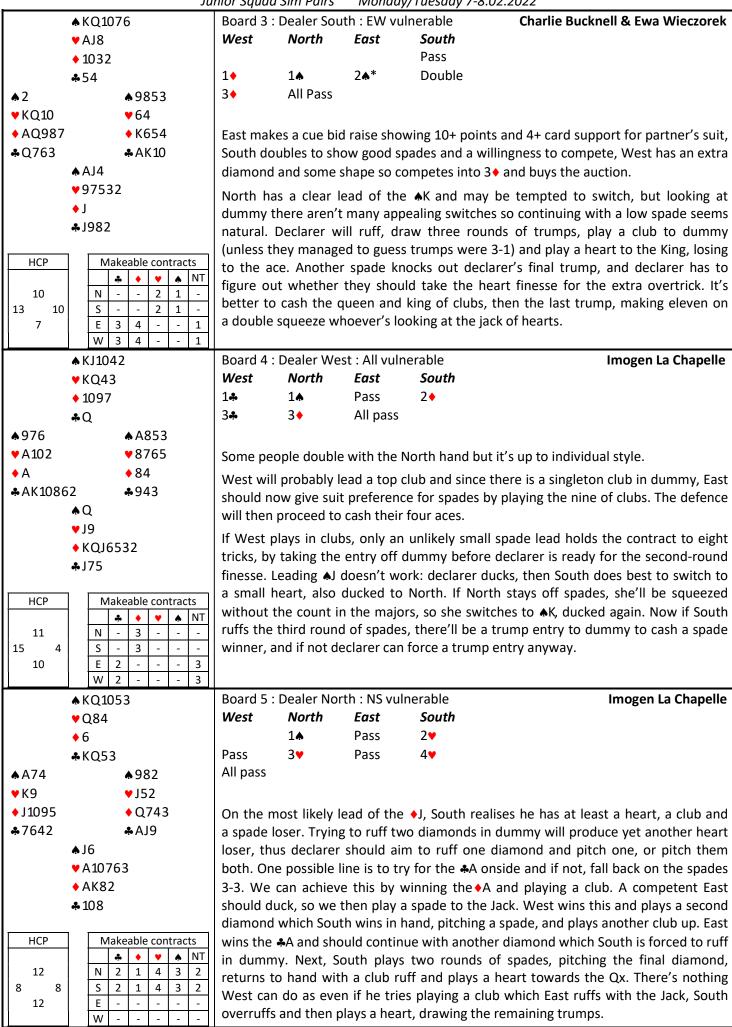
I very much hope you will enjoy reading the expert commentary, which this year has been written entirely by members of our Junior Squads. Please continue to support this annual event, and encourage your club to participate in the future.

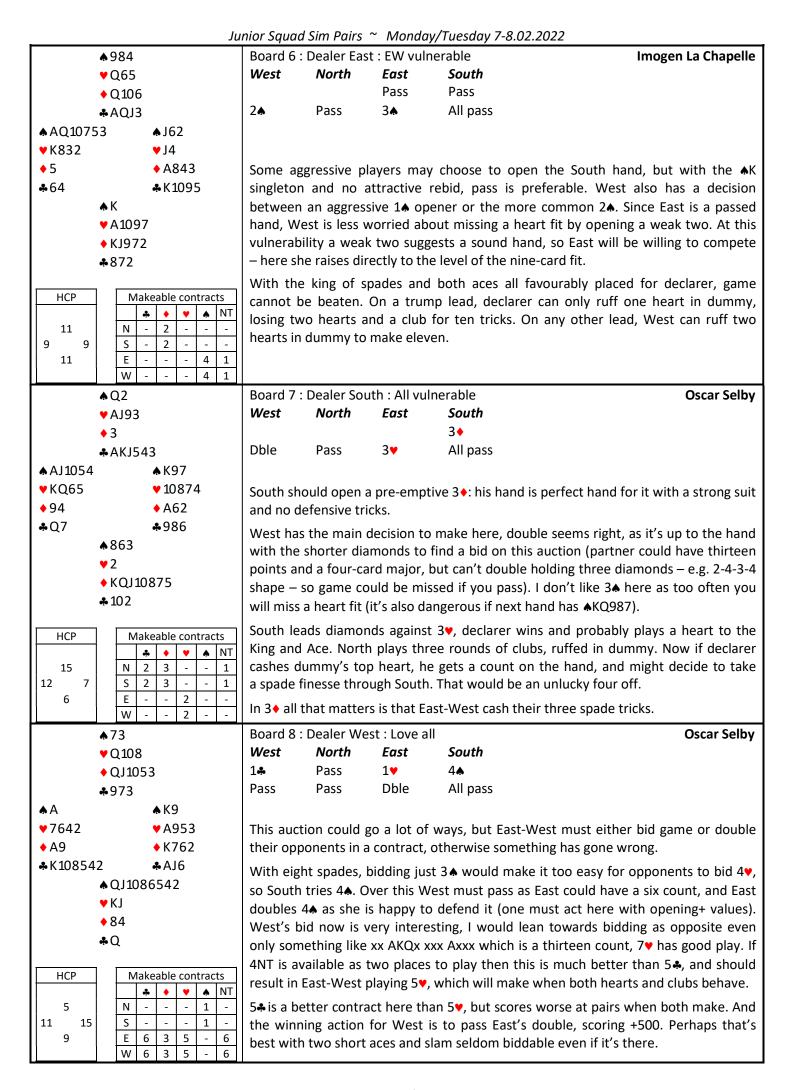
Biographies compiled by Claire Robinson, EBU Selection Committee Junior Liaison Officer.

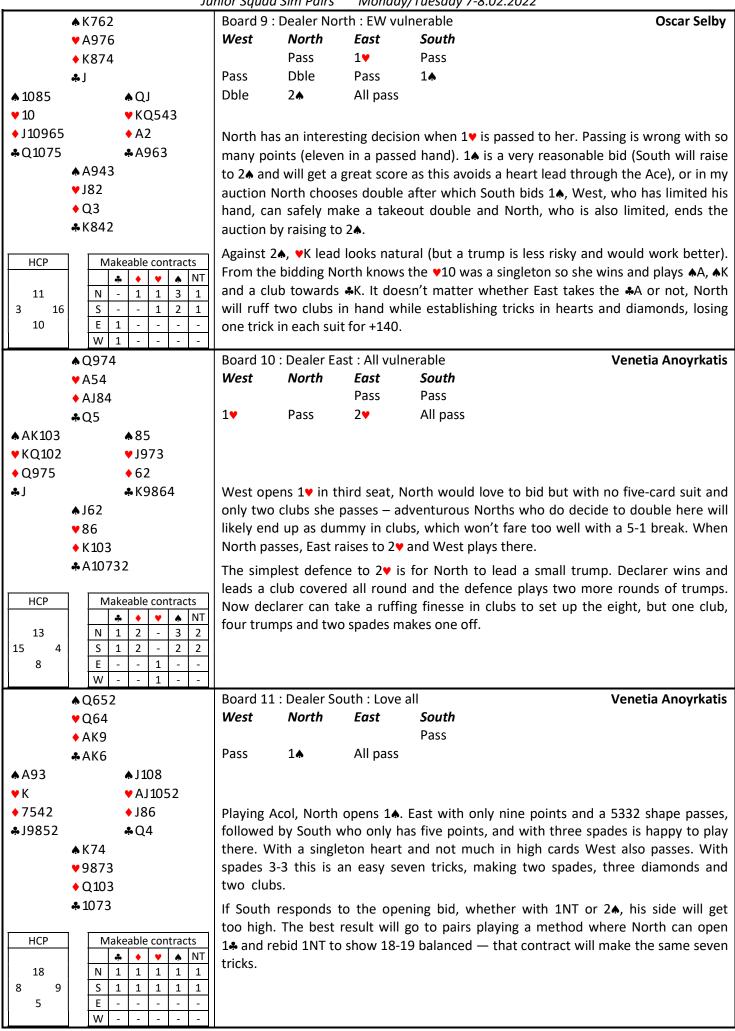
## Paul Barden

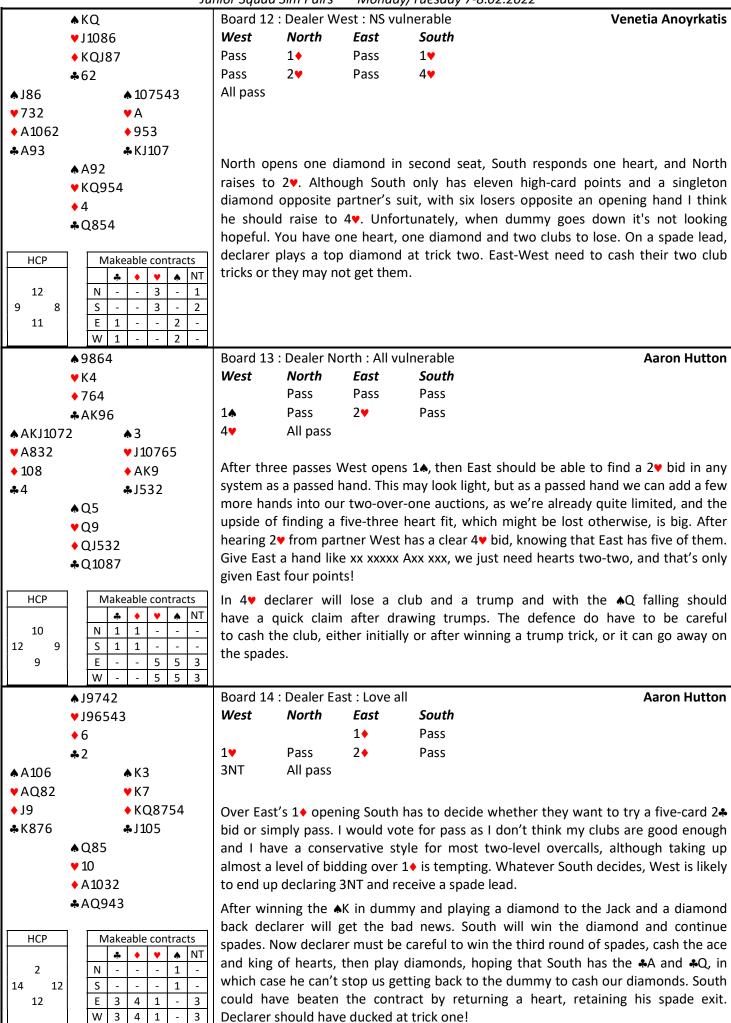


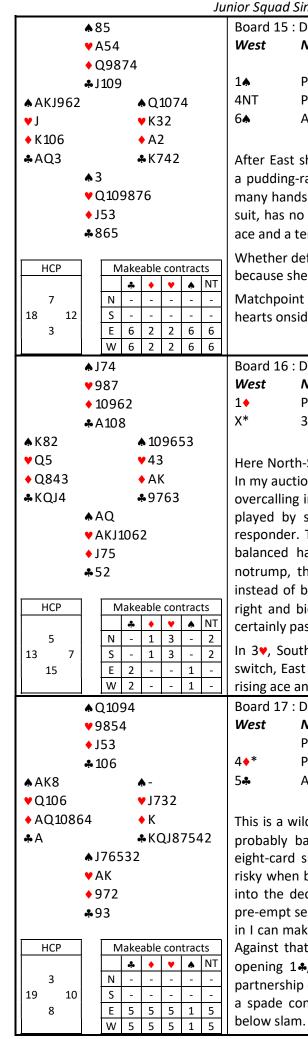
Junior Squad Sim Pairs ~ Monday/Tuesday 7-8.02.2022











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|---|-----------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|--|
|   | Board 1   | 5 : Dealer S | Aaron Hutton |                        |  |
|   | West      | North        | East         | South                  |  |
|   |           |              |              | Pass                   |  |
|   | 1♠        | Pass         | 3NT          | Pass                   |  |
|   | 4NT       | Pass         | 5♦           | Pass                   |  |
|   | 6♠        | All pass     |              |                        |  |
|   |           |              |              |                        |  |
|   |           |              |              |                        |  |

After East shows a good hand with spade support, whether that is via Jacoby 2NT, a pudding-raise 3NT (as shown) or a delayed raise to  $4 \triangleq$  via  $2 \triangleq$ , West can envision many hands with the  $A \neq A \neq A$  and  $A \neq A$  where slam is good, and, with controls in every suit, has no excuse not to try 4NT asking for aces. Once partner says they have one ace and a ten-card fit is known,  $6 \triangleq A \neq A$  is the obvious contract.

Whether defending 4♠ or 6♠ North must be awake to take her ♥A when the ♥J is led because she only has one chance.

Matchpoint specialists might try 6NT, which makes with clubs 3-3 or the ace of hearts onside, but you can't always try both.

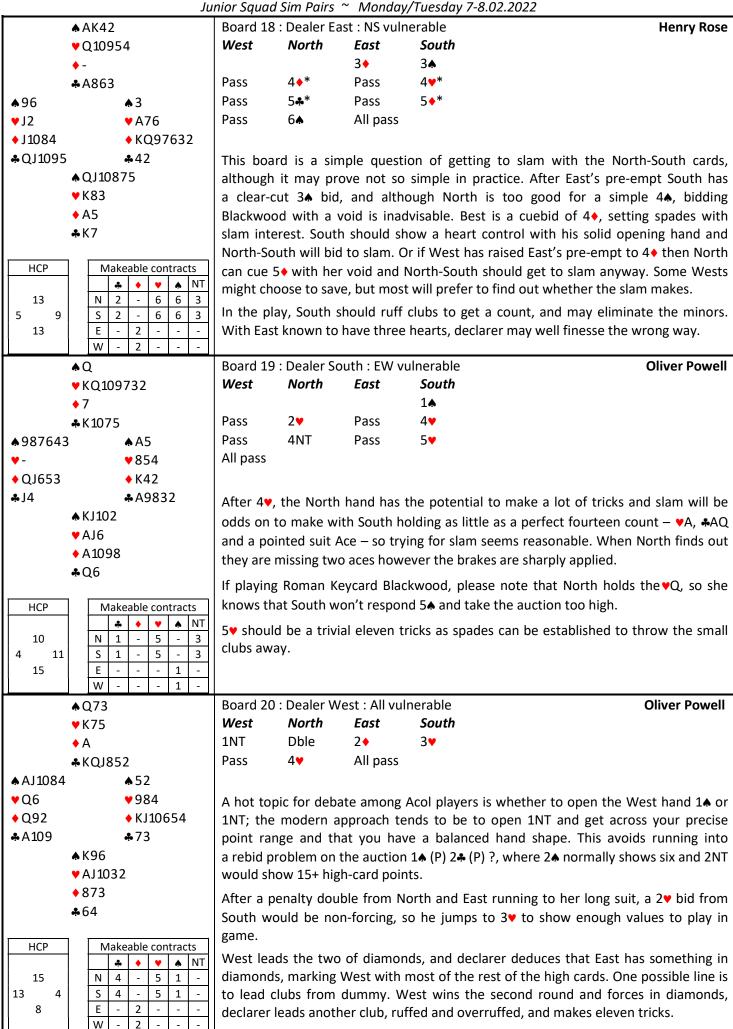
| Board 16: | Dealer We | st : EW vuli | erable | <b>Henry Rose</b> |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------|-------------------|
| West      | North     | East         | South  |                   |
| 1♦        | Pass      | 1♠           | 2♥     |                   |
| X*        | 3♥        | All pass     |        |                   |

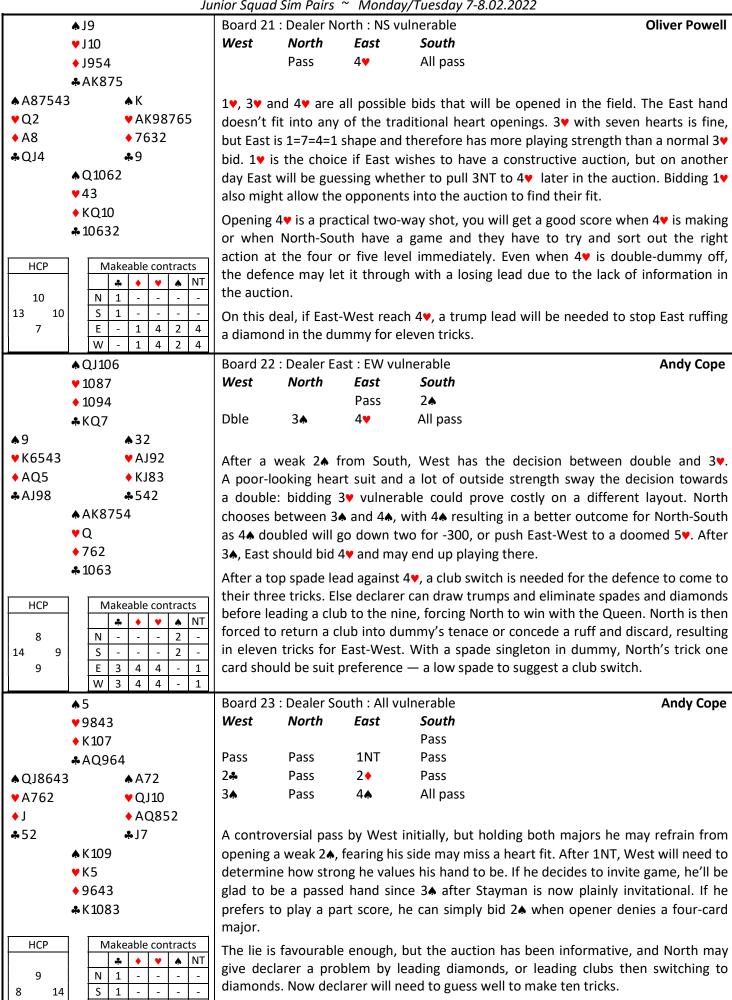
Here North-South need to find a way to compete to 3 but no further to score well. In my auction, where East-West play strong notrump, South easily shows his hand by overcalling in hearts. One bid of note is West's conventional 'support' double, often played by strong notrump players, which shows exactly three-card support for responder. This fits well with a strong notrump as you will often have a minimum balanced hand with three-cards in partner's major. If West can open a weak notrump, then when East transfers with 2 some South players may double 2 instead of bidding, perhaps even passing 2 out. In my book South should get this right and bid 3 anyway as he is so strong, and at this vulnerability West should certainly pass despite his spade fit.

In 3. South does best to duck the club lead. Then even on an unlikely diamond switch, East cashing his winners and putting a spade through, declarer can make by rising ace and running trumps to squeeze West.

| Board 1      | 7 : Dealer N | orth : Love  | e all | Henry Rose |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| West         | North        | East         | South |            |
|              | Pass         | 4♣           | Pass  |            |
| <b>4</b> ♦*  | Pass         | 4 <b>♠</b> * | Pass  |            |
| 5 <b>.</b> * | All pass     |              |       |            |

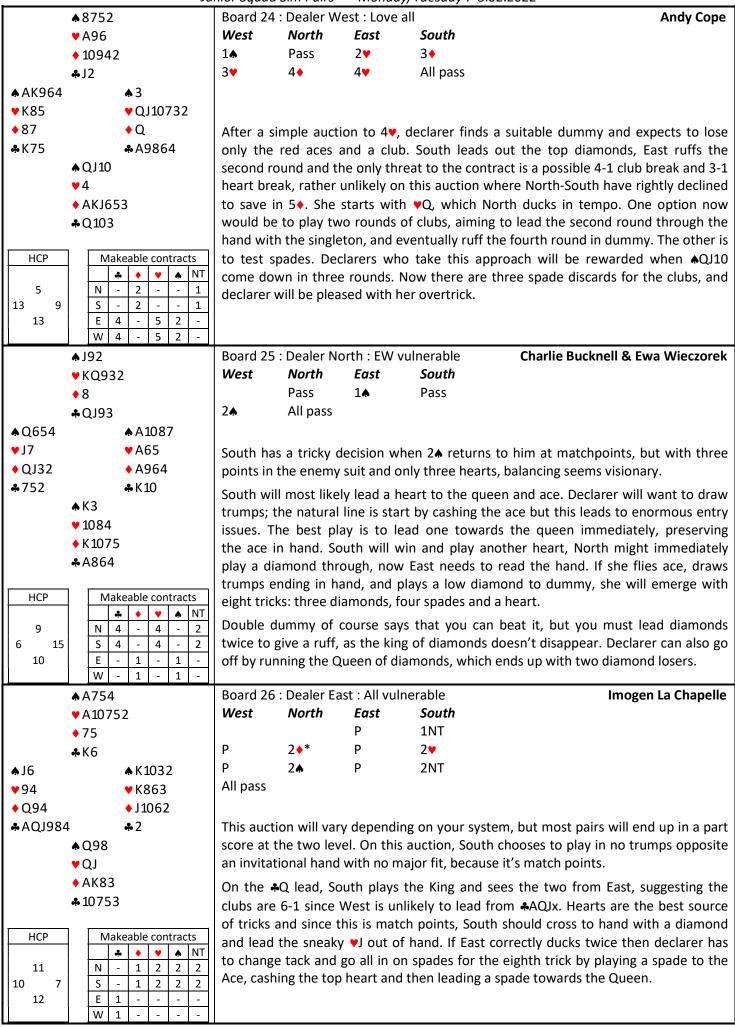
This is a wild board in which I'm sure there will have been many different auctions, probably based on East's opening choice. I like 4\* because it shows the good eight-card suit immediately, and although ignoring a side four-card major can be risky when bidding a six-card suit, with eight it's very rare that the major will factor into the decision. Furthermore, partner will expect me to have a decent hand to pre-empt second in, as I am only pre-empting one unpassed opponent, whereas first in I can make some exceptions because I will be depriving both opponents of room. Against that you will likely never show your true shape or strength this way, and opening 1\*, 5\* or perhaps even passing may well have their day. After 4\* the partnership can only play in clubs, so 4\* is control showing. East can bid 4\*, showing a spade control but denying a heart control, and the partnership will stop safely below slam.

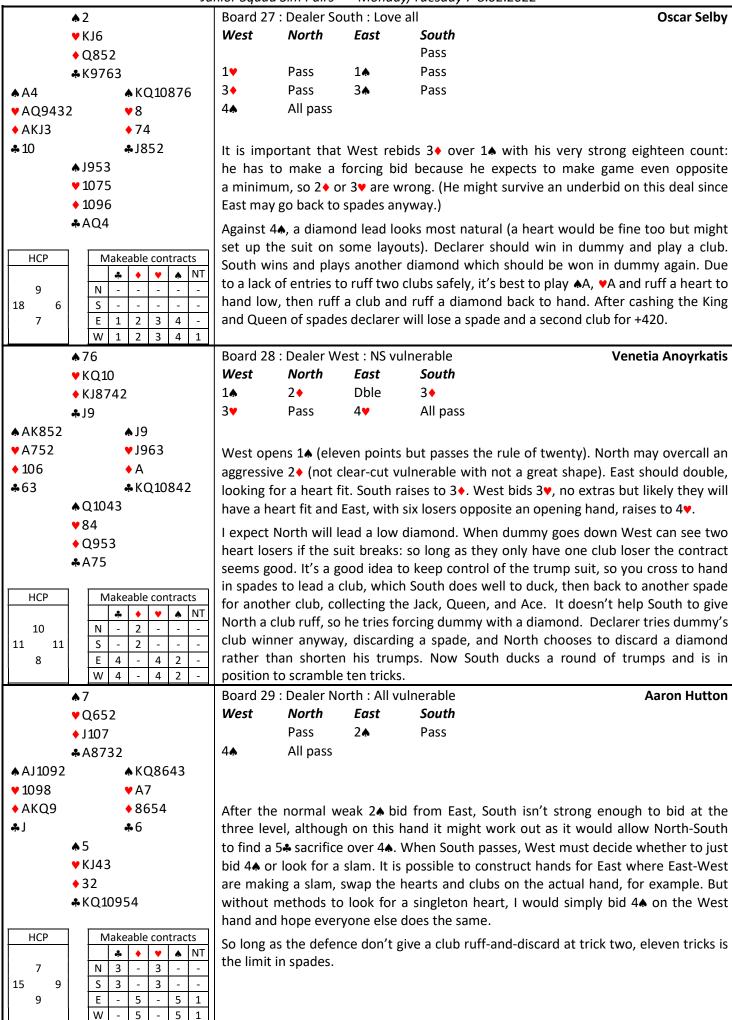


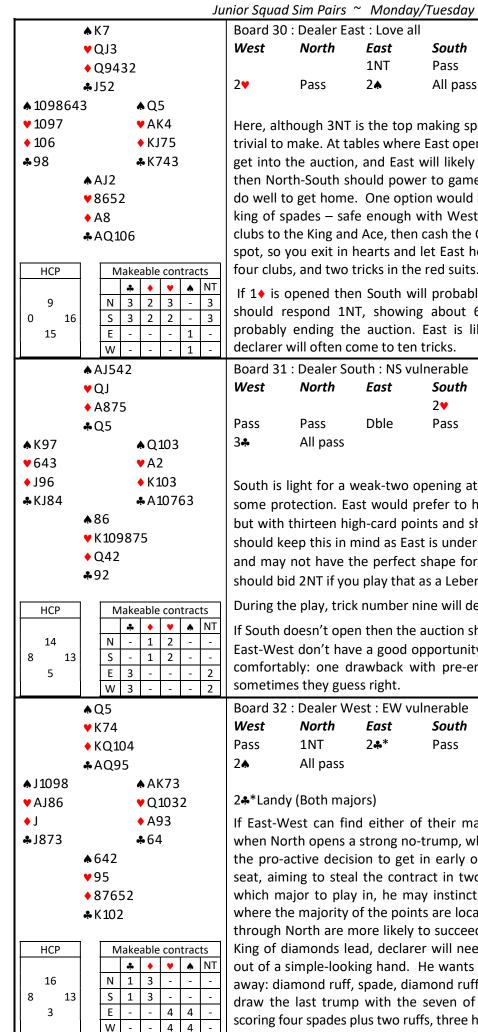


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Here, although 3NT is the top making spot for North-South, it is hard to bid and not trivial to make. At tables where East opens a strong no-trump North-South will never get into the auction, and East will likely drift one or two off in 2♠. If East opens 1♣ then North-South should power to game with 1NT-3NT; on a spade lead South will do well to get home. One option would be to win the first trick in hand, cross to the king of spades - safe enough with West known to be weak - then lead the Jack of clubs to the King and Ace, then cash the Queen. West obliges with another high club spot, so you exit in hearts and let East help you, eventually coming to three spades, four clubs, and two tricks in the red suits.

**Henry Rose** 

Andy Cope

If 1♦ is opened then South will probably double with such a weak stop and North should respond 1NT, showing about 6-9 high-card points in this position, and probably ending the auction. East is likely to make a helpful opening lead, and declarer will often come to ten tricks.

Board 31: Dealer South: NS vulnerable **Oliver Powell** South 2 **Pass** 

South is light for a weak-two opening at this vulnerability, but the heart spots offer some protection. East would prefer to hold four spades to make a takeout double, but with thirteen high-card points and short hearts it's too dangerous to pass. West should keep this in mind as East is under pressure to take action in the pass-out seat and may not have the perfect shape for her double - my partners never do! - and should bid 2NT if you play that as a Lebensohl negative.

During the play, trick number nine will depend on finding the Jack of spades.

If South doesn't open then the auction should be uncontested: 1♠-1NT; 2♦-2♥; P, as East-West don't have a good opportunity to come into the auction. 2♥ should make comfortably: one drawback with pre-empts which make opponents guess is that

Board 32: Dealer West: EW vulnerable South **Pass** 

If East-West can find either of their major-suit fits, they'll be rewarded here. But when North opens a strong no-trump, who should show both majors? East may take the pro-active decision to get in early or West may back in, sitting in the pass-out seat, aiming to steal the contract in two of a major. If West is given the choice of which major to play in, he may instinctively choose to play in hearts but knowing where the majority of the points are located, he should choose spades since finesses through North are more likely to succeed than heart finesses through South. On the King of diamonds lead, declarer will need to be careful to ensure he gets the most out of a simple-looking hand. He wants to ruff two diamonds and should start right away: diamond ruff, spade, diamond ruff, spade. When the Queen comes up he can draw the last trump with the seven of spades, and take the losing heart finesse, scoring four spades plus two ruffs, three hearts and the ace of diamonds, for ten tricks.