

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Graham Osborne

Wednesday
7th September 2022

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 works to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved, by providing focussed training for bridge teachers (members of EBTA, our English Bridge Teaching Association) to support them with the new skills needed for online teaching and adapting methods used in classroom-based learning. We continue to provide a gentle introduction for new players, to online duplicate bridge through our weekly EBS (English Bridge School) relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup, Inter-Schools League and Youth Grand Prix, and runs the Junior Summer Camp. We continue to support 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 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. Amazon customers can effortlessly support us by switching to [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.co.uk/?ref=april). 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 for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

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

<p>♠ 9862 ♥ Q8 ♦ AQ5 ♣ AK95</p> <p>♠ J54 ♥ 105 ♦ 1076 ♣ QJ743</p> <p>♠ A107 ♥ J9732 ♦ K42 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ KQ3 ♥ AK64 ♦ J983 ♣ 106</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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table>				West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																							
West	North	East	South																																						
	1♣	Pass	1♥																																						
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All Pass																																									
<table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		HCP			15			4	8		13			<p>Strict adherents to four card major openings might disapprove of the 1♣ opening, but when I have a very weak major in a strong balanced hand I prefer an alternative if possible, as I don't want to catch a raise to 2♠. Strong no-trumpers will have a Stayman sequence to the same contract.</p> <p>After a ♥ lead run to the Q, it feels natural to try a ♠ to the K and, when that wins, a ♦ to the Q and K. After the ♥ continuation won in dummy, cross to the ♦A and try another ♠. This isn't totally without risk (West may have ducked with AJTxx) but here should lead to 11 tricks. With ♣s, ♦s and ♠s lying so well for declarer, it's likely that 10 tricks or worse will score below average for declarer.</p>																											
HCP																																									
15																																									
4	8																																								
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<table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>E</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></tr></table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	4	5	5	S	4	5	3	5	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-				
Makeable contracts																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																				
N	4	5	4	5	5																																				
S	4	5	3	5	5																																				
E	-	-	-	-	-																																				
W	-	-	-	-	-																																				

♠ Q1075

♥ A10

♦ Q95

♣ 10642

♠ J4

♥ J85

♦ KJ84

♣ Q853

♠ K83

♥ KQ9764

♦ A76

♣ J

♠ A962

♥ 32

♦ 1032

♣ AK97

HCP	
8	
8	13
11	

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	2	-	-	2	-	
S	2	-	-	2	-	
E	-	2	2	-	1	
W	-	2	2	-	1	

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dble
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

South's double is marginal at unfavourable vulnerability, but we do have prime cards and four ♠s which I think makes it a worthwhile risk. Here the double does its job, enabling North to compete to 2♠ pushing the opponents to the 3 level, but the defence has to be accurate to take advantage of this. After a top ♣ lead with North discouraging, a ♦ switch looks risky (although it happens to be safe here) so it looks natural to switch to a trump, and North will play Ace and another. Declarer will try the ♦ finesse and now the defence will prevail as long as North does not play a ♠.

♠ K

♥ A1072

♦ J762

♣ AK96

♠ 1083

♥ K86

♦ K109

♣ Q873

♠ 9765

♥ QJ54

♦ A8543

♣ -

♠ AQJ42

♥ 93

♦ Q

♣ J10542

HCP	
15	
8	7
10	

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	5	-	1	4	2	
S	5	-	1	3	2	
E	-	1	-	-	-	
W	-	1	-	-	-	

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

North can open 1♥ as 1NT looks like an easy rebid over the likely 1♠ response. If South can show a 5-5 hand then North should definitely go for the game in ♣s since ♦s may well be a weak spot in NT, as indeed is the case here. With ♣s falling over, 3NT should fail whether East leads a ♥ or a ♦. 5♣ looks routine but is complicated by the 4-0 break. If West leads a low ♦ to the Ace, declarer ruffs the ♦ return, plays a ♣ to Ace discovering the break, unblocks ♠K, and ruffs another ♦, developing a trick for the ♦J. Now running ♠s through West should be sufficient to wrap up the game. The reality will be that any North-Souths going plus should score well.

♠ 10754

♥ Q62

♦ A106

♣ Q107

♠ KQ92

♥ J9

♦ Q82

♣ K854

♠ 63

♥ K1053

♦ J75

♣ A632

♠ AJ8

♥ A874

♦ K943

♣ J9

HCP	
8	
11	8
13	

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	
S	-	1	-	-	-	
E	2	-	-	1	1	
W	2	-	-	1	1	

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
All Pass			

When West is on lead to the blind weak no-trump auction, a low ♠ lead will leave declarer on the front foot. After winning his cheap second trick in ♠s, declarer can set up his long trick in ♦s and now, however the defence twists and turns, he is a tempo ahead to set up his seventh trick. Strong no-trumpers will have a more revealing auction with South opening 1♦ and North showing ♠s perhaps pushing West towards the more successful ♣ lead. After a ♣ to the Ace and a ♠ shift, West can win the Q and clear ♣s. West will later get in to push a ♥ through dummy to defeat the contract by a trick.

<div><div>♠A1097654</div><div>♥K42</div><div>♦52</div><div>♣6</div></div> <div><div>♠K</div><div>♥1076</div><div>♦Q1083</div><div>♣AK1042</div></div> <div><div>♠J83</div><div>♥AJ953</div><div>♦J</div><div>♣Q983</div></div> <div><div>♠Q2</div><div>♥Q8</div><div>♦AK9764</div><div>♣J75</div></div>	<div>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The offbeat weak no-trump opening isn't to everyone's taste, but the major suit queens are positional for declaring no-trumps and maybe you pre-empt the opponent's major fit. East chances a double of the transfer to show ♥s and West can cue the opponent's suit to show a good raise. When North competes in ♠s, West might suggest an alternative trump suit. As ever, when the vulnerability is love all, it is usually right to keep bidding; indeed 4♠ here, which is one down on best defence, has a decent chance to make. Say East leads his singleton ♦, declarer wins and plays a ♣. With the ♠K singleton, declarer has two entries to get the ♦ suit going but even one down doubled would be better than letting the opponents make 4♣. ♥s is held to nine tricks providing the defence play ♣s before declarer plays a round of ♥s.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
			1NT																		
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass																		
2♠	3♠	Pass	Pass																		
4♣	All Pass																				
<div><div>♠AK952</div><div>♥1073</div><div>♦32</div><div>♣872</div></div> <div><div>♠Q1073</div><div>♥AKQ</div><div>♦A9</div><div>♣KQ109</div></div> <div><div>♠6</div><div>♥J85</div><div>♦KQJ8754</div><div>♣54</div></div> <div><div>♠J84</div><div>♥9642</div><div>♦106</div><div>♣AJ63</div></div>	<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This should be everyone's 3NT and after the unrevealing auction, North is likely to a lead a low ♠ which will give declarer an eleventh trick. With no outside entry a low ♠ lead looks normal, but anyone that chooses a high ♠ will give themselves a chance to earn a top score by viewing to cash-out when the source of tricks in dummy is revealed. South discourages on the first ♠ and then plays a suit preference 8 on the second round which in some fantasy world enables North to switch to a ♣ for a top!</p>	West	North	East	South	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass												
West	North	East	South																		
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																		
<div><div>♠J72</div><div>♥2</div><div>♦AQ1075</div><div>♣A875</div></div> <div><div>♠AK1083</div><div>♥3</div><div>♦K632</div><div>♣K93</div></div> <div><div>♠Q964</div><div>♥8764</div><div>♦J98</div><div>♣QJ</div></div> <div><div>♠5</div><div>♥AKQJ1095</div><div>♦4</div><div>♣10642</div></div>	<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>4♥ is an easy make losing a ♠ and two ♣s, so anyone that finds the 4♠ save has done very well, since the best the defence can do is a ♥ to south and then three rounds of ♦s with South ruffing and the ♣A to come for 500. East might try 3♠ non-vulnerable but 2♠ looks normal vulnerable. It is hard to appreciate that the doubleton ♣QJ is a great holding. Any North-Souths that push on to 5♥ over 4♠ will be disappointed as despite the ♦ finesse being right there is no useful discard.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥	All Pass							
West	North	East	South																		
	1♦	Pass	1♥																		
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥																		
All Pass																					

♠ Q104

♥ -

♦ 86543

♣ A10652

♠ 93

♥ AJ1084

♦ KJ92

♣ K7

♠ AJ86

♥ 96532

♦ Q

♣ Q43

♠ K752

♥ KQ7

♦ A107

♣ J98

HCP

6

12

9

13

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	2	-	1	-
S	2	1	-	1	-
E	-	-	3	-	2
W	-	-	3	-	2

♠ 542

♥ AJ103

♦ A98

♣ 965

♠ KJ9763

♥ 5

♦ 76

♣ KJ84

♠ 10

♥ Q9764

♦ KQ3

♣ A1073

♠ AQ8

♥ K82

♦ J10542

♣ Q2

HCP

9

8

11

12

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	3	-	1	3	1
W	3	-	1	3	1

♠ KQ10976

♥ -

♦ 943

♣ A832

♠ A53

♥ Q94

♦ 8762

♣ 1076

♠ J8

♥ A1052

♦ AK105

♣ 954

♠ 42

♥ KJ8763

♦ QJ

♣ KQJ

HCP

9

6

12

13

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	1	3	-
S	3	-	1	3	-
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

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

West overcalls to show ♥s and a minor. With five trumps, an ace and a singleton, it's tempting to just blast game, but stretching to thin games doesn't pay at matchpoints, and maybe partner has done a good thing just by overcalling in the first place.

The defence is entitled to a trick in each suit and a ♠ lead will pretty much ensure that happens. Things are more delicate on a ♦ lead to the A, which, with the ♦10 falling, threatens to allow declarer to dispose of his ♠ loser. South has to find the play of a ♠ away from his K into dummy's strong holding to prevent this. Note that the bidding should alert declarer to the safety play in trumps to prevent the loss of two tricks in that suit.

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♠	All Pass		

With 6-4 shape in the West hand, it is well worth getting involved over the weak no-trump opening. North would like to make a take-out double if his system permits but the three little ♠s are a very bad holding. In a ♠ partial declarer merely has to play the opening bidder for the ♣Q, or indeed have the suit picked up for him on the opening lead, to make nine tricks.

When South has opened 1♦ and West has made a weak jump overcall of 2♠, the negative double for North looks a lot more attractive with the nice ♦ fit. Appearances can be deceiving, however, and with both ♦ honours wrong and wasted black suit Qs the likely result is -200 whether South finishes in 2NT or 3♦.

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

If you play a loose style of weak two opening, then the North hand will be too strong for 2♠ and you will have to open 1♠. Acting over 1♠ or 2♠ with the East hand is risky at the prevailing vulnerability and opposite a passed partner. Perhaps you could persuade me that there is enough upside over 1♠, but over 2♠ it is definitely too rich for my blood.

Against a ♠ partial the key to stopping declarer making 10 tricks is to prevent the ♦ ruff. Cashing ♦AK and switching to a trump is OK but trying the ♥A next would be less successful.

<p>♠ Q953 ♥ KQ64 ♦ J93 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ AJ1087 ♠ K2 ♥ J9 ♥ 1073 ♦ - ♦ 10876542 ♣ KJ10642 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ A852 ♦ AKQ ♣ Q875</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>It is a question of style how you treat the West hand: do you pass and hope to show both suits later, open 1♠ and hope to keep out the opponents, or mundanely open your longest suit?</p> <p>After three rounds of ♥s against 2♠, the trick is to score all your trumps in hand, so ruff, cross to ♣ A, ruff a ♦, Ruff a ♣ (instead of cashing ♣K), ruff another ♦, now comes the ♣K which North has to ruff and then we can ruff a third ♦ in hand to bring home the contract. Very well done if you manage all that. The defence is tricky against ♣ contracts as well. Two rounds of ♥s is no good as you lose communication for a ♠ ruff. So after one top ♥, a trump switch is good enough, and now declarer has to play two rounds of ♠s finishing in hand otherwise he gets tapped off with the trumps 4-2. South wins the third round of ♣s and can cross to North for a ♠ ruff to hold declarer to eight tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass												
West	North	East	South																						
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass																						
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass																						
<p>♠ AK74 ♥ 1063 ♦ A4 ♣ AQ85</p> <p>♠ J95 ♠ 10632 ♥ K75 ♥ 2 ♦ J1063 ♦ Q982 ♣ J42 ♣ K963</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ AQJ984 ♦ K75 ♣ 107</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The ♥ slam is excellent here but I expect only a minority to bid it. This would be a good hand for 1430 RKC responses since, over a 5♣ response showing one, North would have room to ask for the trump queen.</p> <p>Slam is much better played by North (The ♣ AQ are protected) but unless you can open a 19/20 2NT, or perhaps play a strong ♣ system, that will be impossible. In 6♥ played by South on a ♣ lead, go up with the ace and dispose of your other ♣ on the third round of ♠s. Now you can try a ♥ finesse for an overtrick, but remember to keep the ♥10 as that will make your ♦ ruff secure.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																						
	1♠	Pass	2♥																						
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥																						
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦																						
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦																						
Pass	6♥	All Pass																							
<p>♠ AQ643 ♥ 105 ♦ K6 ♣ 10932</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ 7 ♥ AKQ873 ♥ 64 ♦ 983 ♦ AJ1075 ♣ Q7 ♣ AKJ85</p> <p>♠ KJ952 ♥ J92 ♦ Q42 ♣ 64</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>5♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Slam is decent here, requiring a bit more than a 3-2 trump break: either being allowed to ruff a ♠ in dummy or ♣s playing for five tricks will do. In the face of a ♠ barrage from the opponents it may even be difficult to judge to go to the five level, although East has a good hand for ♥s when partner shows a long suit. 4♠ is a decent save, so any East-Wests that stop off to double will be disappointed. Indeed, if you are unfortunate enough for your opponents to bid 6♥, then you might save a matchpoint or two by bidding 6♠.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass								
West	North	East	South																						
		1♦	Pass																						
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠																						
4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass																						



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