

The 2019 WBU Charity Autumn Pairs

Friday 6th September, Session # 7167



Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for supporting the WBU Simultaneous Pairs - I hope you enjoyed the hands and the commentary which, in order to give our faithful commentators a rest, was taken from an old set of hands from a simultaneous pairs that none of the WBU clubs played in.

We are absolutely delighted to have a sponsor to cover all necessary costs and I would like to thank Bridge Overseas (<https://bridgeoverseas.com/>) for their generosity. I have been looking at their website and there are some great holidays there – do check it out, I am sure you would find something to suit you !

Because of this, all funds raised from this event will be donated to [Wales Air Ambulance](#)- In order to maximise this donation a decision was taken not to print booklets as I am sure most of you have internet access and can read it online, or download and print it.

The results of this event can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com as usual - just click on the link to Sims and you will see how to find them.

Best wishes - and enjoy your bridge! Remember by being nice to your partner and courteous to the opposition everyone will have an enjoyable evening.

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Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

When I first took a look at this hand I went 'Yuck'. More a gut reaction than a thought. I have subsequently been through all the hands of this set, come back to this one and still I'm thinking 'Do I have to?' Talk about this hand, I mean. In an intelligible way. Deep Finesse says 3NT and 4♠ make. Trust him.

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We also help Charities & not for profit organisations with their meeting and events, re-unions & group leisure travel.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

EW's choice of contract at game level is 3NT and 4♠. Four spades is the normal spot and makes unless NS find their diamond ruff immediately...so it may well all come down to system. The East NT opens in a spade contract may get a natural diamond lead. The Wests playing spades probably will not. 3NT is a doddle. In fact I can't see a reason why EW will bid as high as game...and indeed some of them may end up defending at a part-score level or perhaps even higher...If South takes action over either a NT opening (showing his majors) or over a 1♣ opening (a light take-out double), North will get excited...and then there is this auction: INT (Pass) 2H (3C) all pass. Not beyond the realm of possibility. Any EW pair defending at the three level or higher will get a good score.

Have you looked at the WBU Website recently ? There are lots of interesting events coming up during the Autumn and into next year.

For example

14/15 September: the **Welsh Foursomes**;

29 September: **Green Pointed Swiss Pairs**

The new **WBU Congress** is on 8th October

The **Premier League** kicks off on 19th October, and of course there is the **Porthcawl Congress** on 15th November and the ever-popular **Llangollen Congress** on 23rd November.

Lots of great bridge events to enjoy !

There is a full calendar of all the WBU Events at

<https://welshbridgeunion.org/bridge-calendar-wbu/>

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Four hearts by North is a good spot failing IF East begins with either a spade or a diamond. Left to his own devices declarer has to decide whether to finesse the diamond or reject the finesse in order to make sure of getting a spade away on the ♣K. At teams the decision would be easy. At pairs not so. Perhaps it depends on the level. Will a lot of the field get to game? If you think not, then perhaps that is a reason to play diamonds from the top.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

It might look like your basic part-score battle, EW in hearts, NS in spades but although NS have almost half the points and a spade fit they are well advised to steer clear of the auction. As for hearts...know-it-all Deep Finesse says it makes 10 tricks, but in practice? The safety play in hearts for 3 winners – which will, on the rest of the layout, be the successful play this time - is heart to the ace. But one would need to know in advance that the diamond finesse was working, and for most tricks in any case small heart to the jack is best...so my prediction is +140 EW making nine tricks will be about the best score in their direction.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

A part-score battle between hearts EW and clubs NS. Whether South opens 1♣ or INT shouldn't make much difference. If NS get to spades instead Deep Finesse thinks that makes too. It certainly looks to be playing quite well.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

I guess everybody will be playing hearts by East on this one, which has 10 top tricks, and maybe eleven: if East is happy to try crossing to the club jack to play the first round of trumps from dummy, North has to rise on the first round to shift to a diamond.

Otherwise declarer will make 11 tricks. Pity any EW who plays this hand from the West seat. Now the diamond lead will actually beat 4♥, promoting a trump trick for the defence.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

It doesn't require much for NS to make nine tricks in spades single-dummy, but the layout is unkind and seven tricks is the limit on the hand. Meanwhile EW's ambitions in diamonds are limited to 10 tricks due to the awkwardness of drawing trumps while spades are such a weakness. It looks like West has to take a discard from dummy on the opening spade lead: a miserable way to have to start the hand.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Duplication means that the thin 4♥ contract EW is going to fail...it would just get by on a non-club lead as one could draw two rounds of trumps and then play on spades, but in practice both North and South have natural club leads.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Who succeeds on this light 3NT will depend upon system. By North it makes, by South it goes down to the heart lead.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Thin games are the order of the day, this time 3NT by EW. It looks like success or failure will depend upon the view taken in the minors for the ninth trick: 2 hearts, 3 spades, 2 clubs 1 diamond. Those who play on diamonds – eg 2 finesses via a diamond to the queen and then one to the ten will go down. Those playing for the less likely 3-3 clubs will make. And perhaps they have, in any case, another string to their bow. Playing clubs from the top at some point might create a diamond endplay when clubs are 4-2, supposing that the majors have been cleared, making that another opportunity for the ninth trick.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

I've got to admit that the super-weird 3NT NS appeals to me. Yes, it makes less tricks than 4♥, and it's pairs, so how can that be the right spot? Well, it all depends upon what you think EW are going to do with their cards. They have a cheap save in 5♦, as long as they guess spades, but, although they will be keen to bid 5♦ over 4♥, it will not be so attractive to bid over a 3NT which looks beatable. All this may be academic as South has a simple four level opening, but somebody will open a chicken 3♥, or mis-sort their hand...or maybe start with a cunning pass. And then there will be the possibility of considering 3NT NS.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

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

Who will declare 6♣ NS? It looks like it will be South, opening either a natural 1♣ or a Precision 1♣. 'All' South has to do is eliminate the club suits while taking a heart pitch from dummy on the spade and then exit ace and another diamond, endplaying West in hearts...West's way of avoiding this ignominious fate and his most attractive way of presenting the contract at that point will be to play the ♦ king under the ace. In fact, absolutely the very best thing to do is to play the ♦K under the ace and then follow up with 'Oh no, I didn't mean to do that, is it a played card, can I PLEASE have it back....sorry partner' while looking aghast. Ha, ha, ha.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

A partscore battle, NS in spades, EW in clubs. EW can afford to bid up to 4♣ as long as they get to steal it undoubled.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

EW have a cheap heart save over NS's 4♠ contract, but unless East has a systemic opening with that hand, it won't be easy to get into the auction as it is likely to proceed 1♠ by South and then a two-over-one in diamonds by North. It will be brave soul who backs back in at that point with the EW cards. There is nothing to the play in 4♠ – 11 top tricks.

Board 15. NIS Vul. Dealer South.

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

Those who manage to bid the NS cards to 6NT will win the biscuits on this deal. Of course, whereas the six spaders will welcome the diamond lead by East as it is an extra chance to avoid the heart guess, while not threatening the contract, the six no trumpers will be hating it...until the queen holds, that is.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Only one top loser on this lot for EW in spades, but it doesn't play well and 4♠ is the limit of the hand...those who attempt to go slamming will regret it.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Although it is EW's hand in 2♠, it is easy enough to imagine South's weak NT opening being passed out and then a spade opening lead. Deep Finesse says that goes down, but I would have thought declarer was in with a chance: suppose he gets to win the third spade and 'run' the ♣ J, before exiting with a club to the ace. West can cash the spades but then has to exit in a red suit. A diamond will then let declarer lead a heart up for contract. If, instead, a heart exit to the ace and another heart by East declarer throws West in for the extra diamond trick. That leaves a heart exit to the ace followed by a diamond shift by East. Again, declarer should be able to rise on that and then squeeze West in the reds for contract. But is there adequate communication between North and South by the time they have finished pitching on run of the spades? Just! Pitch 1 diamond plus 2 hearts from dummy and 1 club plus 1 heart from hand.

Board 18. NIS Vul. Dealer East.

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

At the vulnerability the NS save in spades over hearts is no good: 500 vs 420. But it is pretty easy to see West goaded into bidding on in hearts after North Michaels over a 1♥ opening and South sounds pleased about that. I'm guessing 4♠ doubled will not be a common contract.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Those playing four of a major are going to take the heart hook, going one down. Anybody happening to pair their way to 3NT should figure out to play hearts from the top as if the heart finesse is working they have a bottom compared with those in the major suit game. This will give them a pleasant surprise, as the heart queen drops, bringing them back to the field with an average for one down!

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

NS make a part-score in hearts, EW have all the rest of the suits. EW will do well to stay low, perhaps 1♠ 2♦ 2♠ passed out. At some point South may come to life with the heart suit...3♥ will go one down.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

It looks to me like it will be hard to stop EW buying a spade part-score: a straight-forward +140 to EW.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

In theory 3NT is going down via the heart suit. In practice I don't think it will be so easy for the defence to do that...North will be bidding – or showing – hearts and West will have bid spades. Maybe East will have bid diamonds. In all these scenarios it will be good work for EW to get it right.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Those that open the South hand 3♣ might 'force' East to bid 3NT and that'll make on a club lead – but otherwise fail. EWs who find themselves in 4♥ will also hang – or not on South's opening lead decision.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

With spades behaving this is a dull 4♠.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

6NT will fail, but North has to make sure that the ♠10 is covered when it is led from dummy...otherwise East will be permitted to take the club finesse as well and that will be 12 tricks.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

Duplication has been the night-mare of this set and here it is again. Twenty-seven highs and not a game in sight. The ones who reject the spade fit for 3NT will make on the likely heart lead from East and fail on a club lead from West...

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Again the duplication and this time, with a few less HCP, the games are two down according to Deep Finesse. I'm thinking in practice that spades might even be held to seven tricks as I think the lines to take eight tricks involve ducking a spade to West

early: a big position unless one had serious evidence to support this view.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

NS have a choice of games...5♦ or 3NT. The notrump game has greater potential for overtricks as it is quite likely to be played by South after West has kicked off with a weak two opening in spades. It takes a club lead to hold 3NT to 9 tricks.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

This might depend on whether North or South is the declarer in 3NT. West has a natural heart lead, contract making. East has a natural club lead, contract failing. But I'm guessing even played by North there are going to be some heart opening leads from East. Firstly because some Wests will manage to get that heart suit into the auction – eg bravely after North opens 1♦ and South reponds 1♠. Secondly because there is bound to be some bright spark who thinks the best thing to do with that East hand is to 'find partner'. Don't you just love it when partner puts you first?

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

North is quite likely to get off to a heart lead against 3NT by West as East will have opened 1♠, but even that is not enough double-dummy. West should get home via 3 clubs, 4 diamonds, a heart, a spade...there are tricks to burn. But single-dummy maybe there are all sorts of ways to go wrong. All declarer would have to do is decide to play on spades and that would be the end of his chances.

Board 31. NIS Vul. Dealer South.

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

Four spades by EW will make 10 tricks. The possibility of picking spades is not relevant as a club ruff is needed. 3NT needs the picking of the spade position. I guess any declarer managing that deserves a top...but in fact, assuming a red suit lead (the HQx, if a heart is the choice) picking spades will only keep declarer to a bottom!

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

By this stage of the night nobody is going to be that interested in an in-depth analysis of a part-score hand. EW have the spades, but only eight tricks...if, that is, they pick spades. Otherwise they make only seven. Meanwhile three of a minor is an easy ride for NS.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Do transfers need to be punished occasionally? Anybody playing spades from the East hand – eg a 1NT overcall after 1♥ by North and then transfer by West – will risk the diamond lead by South beating the otherwise cold 4♠. Any North brave enough to chance a lightner double of 4♠ should get the diamond lead and all the matchpoints. Well, maybe not all of them. Consider the North-Souths who take the insurance of 5♣, doubled, no doubt. An innocent spade lead from West. I'm thinking that is the end of the defence: pitch two hearts and cross ruff starting with the big hearts from dummy, forcing the covers from East to set them up.