

Welsh Bridge Union



2021 Autumn Pairs
Friday 10th September

After a long absence, the WBU Sim Pairs is back!!!

The Sim Pairs is running over the week of 6 to 10 September, with different hands each day. Clubs playing on the same day will play the same hands and as usual it will be rescored across the field to give an overall ranking list. Enhanced local master points awards are up for grabs to the top third of the field

This is the first time the WBU has held a hybrid Simultaneous Pairs – across multiple online platforms as well as for face to face pairs at the bridge table.

Clubs will hold their heats in their chosen setting – Realbridge, BBO, Stepbridge or Face to Face at the club.

Our thanks go to ECatsBridge for distributing the hands, providing the commentary, and scoring the event ... basically making this possible.

This year's chosen charity will be the Wales Air Ambulance again. We are proud to support them in the work that they do across the country.

We hope you have enjoyed your bridge and the commentary - and have managed to do as well as the experts have done (or better!). Results as always can be found at :
www.ecatsbridge.com/sims

Don't forget to check the WBU Website at <https://welshbridgeunion.org/> for information about future events – whether online or Face to Face. We are all working to give you as much enjoyable bridge as possible ! And – looking into the future – the St David's Day Sims will return next year from **28th February – 4th March** so do put those dates in your diary and come and join us.

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1

♠ 103
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KJ1073
 ♣ A2
 ♠ K9
 ♥ KJ10982
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K954
 ♠ QJ76542
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ A986
 ♣
 ♠ A8
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ QJ108763

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

East has a problem over north's 1♦ - how many spades to bid. 3♠ would be my choice. South might bid 2♣ over 1♠, but will surely pass 3♠.

South's natural club lead allows 3♠ home, declarer getting two club ruffs in hand and two diamond ruffs in dummy. The defence manage two trumps via a promotion, plus a heart and a diamond. A trump lead and continuation allows five defensive tricks. Worst is south leading his singleton heart for a ruff. Now declarer cannot be prevented from making ten tricks.

N/S can manage 3♣, if allowed to play there. Against that, an improbable E/W 3♥ is unbeatable.

Prediction is for a myriad of scores both ways.

2

♠ A73
 ♥ AQ10
 ♦ 985
 ♣ AJ94
 ♠ KQJ85
 ♥ 9872
 ♦ AJ2
 ♣ 2
 ♠ 10964
 ♥ KJ64
 ♦ Q106
 ♣ 103
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 53
 ♦ K743
 ♣ KQ8765

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West has a 1♠ opener, and north a thin 1NT overcall, though some may pass. East will raise to 2♠ either way. South will probably essay 3♠ if north has bid, otherwise will pass.

The fortuitous lie of the cards is such that 4♠ is unbeatable, but will hardly be bid, unless pushed there.

N/S one light in 4♣, undoubled, may be a decent board if they risk that. Who knows, some may even be allowed to declare 3♠, though shouldn't as E/W have a nine card fit.

3

♠ A1074
 ♥ A8753
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 943
 ♠ 962
 ♥
 ♦ K9854
 ♣ J10872
 ♠ KJ83
 ♥ J64
 ♦ A73
 ♣ Q65
 ♠ Q5
 ♥ KQ1092
 ♦ QJ106
 ♣ AK

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West might risk a 2NT overcall if the vulnerability were reversed, but will hardly here. N/S should get to 4♥, which should make with an overtrick, though declarer needs to be careful, as the 3:0 trump break means he cannot both pull trumps and ruff three diamonds in dummy.

Most N/Ss will manage 450 by a variety of routes - either a spade can be set up, or a diamond ruffing finesse taken if east plays the diamond ace on the first round, or even a cross-ruff, after pulling no more than one round.

I can see some declarers settling for 420, but they shouldn't.

4

♠ K3
 ♥ K1084
 ♦ AQJ64
 ♣ 98
 ♠ Q98652
 ♥ QJ965
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 3
 ♠ 107
 ♥ 73
 ♦ K832
 ♣ QJ1062
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ A2
 ♦ 975
 ♣ AK754

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

I suppose some might try a weak 2♠ with the west hand (planning to then bid hearts), but most will pass. North will kick off with 1♦ and south bid 2♣. That will surely silence west.

South will almost certainly end up declaring 3NT. A lead of either of west's majors cedes a trick. Declarer needs to be careful not to squander his diamond 9, as it is a trick, west's singleton being the 10.

Many declarers will manage eleven tricks, but some may fall from grace and only make ten.

5

♠ J1062
♥ 83
♦ 3
♣ QJ10965

♠ 9843
♥ 107
♦ J6542
♣ 74

♠ AK5
♥ A9542
♦ KQ8
♣ 32

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

South could open a strong NT. West is so strong that double is pointless - east will surely take out, even if north doesn't. Best is to pass, and hope for some vulnerable undertricks. In this case there are none, as south can play on clubs, and the lucky fall of the spade queen means that declarer makes two diamonds, four spades and a heart, or equivalent.

West will double the Acol 1♥, planning on bidding 1NT. East may bid 1♠, west declaring 1NT as planned - this should be defeated. Or east may prefer diamonds, likely raised to 3♦. This can make.

As ever, those going plus, including N/S in clubs, will do well. Hard to predict this one.

6

♠ A1083
♥ 104
♦ J1097
♣ Q75

♠ Q9642
♥ 953
♦ A43
♣ J8

♠ K75
♥ K876
♦ K865
♣ AK

♠ J
♥ AQJ2
♦ Q2
♣ 1096432

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

East's turn to have a strong NT, or an Acol 1♥. This exposes a flaw in Acol, as east will rebid 1NT over west's 1♠, and west will pass, being short of game going values. The 5:3 spade fit will be missed.

A club lead puts paid to 1NT, unless someone has a doubleton spade ace (not today), whereas the strong NT sequence leads to east declaring 2♠, a much sounder contract, though little better as the cards lie.

It looks like 1NT will go 200 light, whereas 2♠ would normally have chances unless the spades break badly, as here.

N/S can make 3♣, but are better off collecting 200 plus against E/W's efforts.

7

♠ 92
♥ Q43
♦ 973
♣ J9865

♠ J104
♥ 972
♦ Q862
♣ 1043

♠ AKQ875
♥ A8
♦ J105
♣ Q2

♠ 63
♥ KJ1065
♦ AK4
♣ AK7

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

East is bit strong to protect with 1♠ in 4th seat after south's 1♥. He will likely double.

Opposite a passing partner south may well pass second time, and west bid an unhappy 2♦, over which east's 2♠ completes the picture.

This may well steal the pot, despite N/S being able to make 4♥, since the club queen luckily falls.

Playing 5 card majors some norths may raise to 2♥ over west's 2♦ (north having passed already, this will not excite south). The net result could be south pushing on to 3♥, and E/W to 3♠. This latter effort is beaten so long as south leads a heart early on.

8

♠ K843
♥ 62
♦ 1092
♣ K1095

♠ 62
♥ QJ853
♦ AK
♣ J862

♠ AQJ109
♥ 109
♦ Q654
♣ 74

♠ 75
♥ AK74
♦ J873
♣ AQ3

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

West could open 1♥ and rebid 2♣ over east's 1♠. When east gives heart preference south is wisest defending rather than bidding.

West's 2♥ loses the first six tricks on a trump lead, if found, south extracting dummy's trumps, then cashing four club tricks. Any other defence is likely to let it home. Indeed on a spade lead an overtrick looks possible, though unlikely.

The traveller will be interesting here. Should you always lead trumps on this sort of auction?

9

♠ K
 ♥ 10963
 ♦ AQ76
 ♣ K752
 ♠ Q873
 ♥ Q754
 ♦ J105
 ♣ Q9
 ♠ A10642
 ♥ J2
 ♦ 84
 ♣ AJ103

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

In Acol north opens 1♥ and rebids 2♣ over south's 1♠. South's raise probably ends proceedings. This nice spot looks to score 110/130.

In 5 card majors north opens 1♦ and probably rebids 1NT over south's 1♠. Matters may well rest there, though some south's may bid 2♣, either naturally, or as a major suit ask.

1NT is also a nice spot, and looks like scoring 120/150.

It looks like the 5 card majors may win out here.

10

♠ J1096
 ♥ 92
 ♦ A103
 ♣ AQ108
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ A10743
 ♦ KQ2
 ♣ 76
 ♠ K54
 ♥ J5
 ♦ 98764
 ♣ J32
 ♠ A32
 ♥ KQ86
 ♦ J5
 ♣ K954

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

Old fashioned players pass the east hand. Modern players, especially those playing 5 card majors, open 1♥. West may or may not have some toys showing suitable raises, but east is minimum, so 4♥ will eventuate.

A club lead and spade switch beats this two, otherwise it is one light. So much for light openers.

West may be the opener at some tables, either 1♣ or a weak NT. The latter will have 4♥ played by west, almost certainly two away on the top spade lead.

Hard to get a plus E/W here, unless some take a very conservative view.

11

♠ 8763
 ♥ A106
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ K104
 ♠ J1092
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A4
 ♣ 987532
 ♠ AKQ4
 ♥ KQJ42
 ♦ Q86
 ♣ Q
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 9753
 ♦ KJ732
 ♣ AJ6

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

It looks like south will open 1♥. In Acol north may respond 1♠, and could find himself playing game in his poor suit. East will probably lead a club. Assuming west wins and finds the diamond switch, declarer is two light.

In 5 card majors north ignores his pitiful spades and raises 1♥. Now south probably plays in 4♥. This should be only one light. The defence can use east's diamond ace entry to lead a diamond through the queen, or to give west a spade ruff, but not both. Either a diamond or spade loser eventually goes on north's club winner.

So it looks like south's strong hand is booked for a minus score, the only question being "how many?"

12

♠ J975
 ♥ A
 ♦ K643
 ♣ Q952
 ♠ 10864
 ♥ J94
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KJ764
 ♠ A3
 ♥ 10732
 ♦ Q109852
 ♣ 10
 ♠ KQ2
 ♥ KQ865
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ A83

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

West's turn to have a biggie, again a 1♥ opener. 5 card majors may dredge up a 2♥ raise by east.

It looks like the 5 card major brigade will win out again, as Acol will play 1♥, vs the game bid in hearts in 5 card major land.

Declarer should manage ten, or more likely eleven, tricks. It takes an unlikely club lead from north, plus a ruff in south to take three legitimate defensive tricks double dummy.

It looks as if E/W pluses will vary from 170 to 650.

13

♠ K7
 ♥ KJ754
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ A52
 ♠ 1085
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ A10
 ♣ KQJ974
 ♠ AJ932
 ♥ A108
 ♦ 532
 ♣ 63
 ♠ Q64
 ♥ 932
 ♦ Q8764
 ♣ 108

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

Yet another 1♥ opener, maybe a strong NT, by north. Both east and south will pass. West will protect with 2♣ over the 1♥, but probably pass 1NT, unless playing 2♣ natural.

East's spade lead allows 1NT to make, assuming declarer plays diamonds. Otherwise he may be several light.

East may pass the protective 2♣, or take a rosy view and bid 2♠. The former contract probably racks up 130, unless north finds an early diamond lead or switch.

Bidding spades risks getting overboard to game, but even this could make. South is on opening lead, and in again in spades. He needs to find a diamond early on, or east can make 170/620.

14

♠ 7652
 ♥ AKQJ54
 ♦ 102
 ♣ 6
 ♠ AK3
 ♥ 10972
 ♦ KJ4
 ♣ 1074
 ♠ Q108
 ♥ 63
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ QJ932
 ♠ J94
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A9853
 ♣ AK85

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

I imagine the auction will go 1♦ - 1♥ - 2♣ - 4♥ with E/W silent.

If east leads the unbid suit, spades, north has the tempo to get home, establishing the 13th for his tenth trick. A minor opening lead means that north is forced, running out of trumps before his last spade is set up.

It will be interesting to see the scores on this one. Doesn't everyone lead the fourth suit on this auction?

15

♠ K1073
 ♥ 9
 ♦ QJ64
 ♣ Q763
 ♠ 652
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ AK85
 ♣ AJ4
 ♠ J8
 ♥ KQJ652
 ♦ 10932
 ♣ 10
 ♠ AQ94
 ♥ A83
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K9852

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

South has a 1♣ opener, and north may bid 1♠, probably best on his limited hand. East may intervene in hearts, but south will support spades.

West has a pretty decent hand in support of hearts, so it will be interesting to see where this potentially competitive deal ends up.

East needs to lead an anti-intuitive club to take four tricks against spades, assuming declarer reads the clubs correctly. E/W cannot credibly make more than eight tricks in hearts.

My guess is that most tables will have N/S making 140/170 in spades, with a few E/Ws managing to lose only 50-100 in hearts.

16

♠ K95
 ♥ Q10
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ Q1073
 ♠ J64
 ♥ KJ84
 ♦ J96
 ♣ A85
 ♠ AQ87
 ♥ A6532
 ♦ 108
 ♣ J4
 ♠ 1032
 ♥ 97
 ♦ K753
 ♣ K962

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

If north opens his weak NT, east should have a major suit convention in the locker. This should result in E/W managing 140, playing hearts.

If north opens a 5 card major 1♦, east probably overcalls 1♥, though some may pass. 1NT should be beaten two tricks, but that will not compensate for the 140 available.

The 1♥ overcall should allow par to be reached, but on a bad day west will bid game, and E/W lose 100.

17

♠ K97543
 ♥ J5
 ♦ KQ98
 ♣ J
 ♠ A6
 ♥ AKQ42
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ A1096
 ♠ QJ108
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 7652
 ♣ Q832
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 108763
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ K754

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

The north hand is a difficult hand evaluation. At love all 1♠ is probably best. West will probably double in fourth seat after two passes, and east try 1NT, rapidly raised to game.

A well trained south will lead partner's suit. So long as north finds the obvious high diamond switch, this effort should go light. However, some souths could find a club lead, letting it home, maybe even with an overtrick, as north can be end-played.

If west is the opener 1♥ may end the auction. This should make seven to nine tricks depending on the opening lead and subsequent play.

18

♠ Q1096
 ♥ A932
 ♦ 54
 ♣ Q54
 ♠ J42
 ♥ 74
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ KJ1072
 ♠ AK875
 ♥ 86
 ♦ Q987
 ♣ 86
 ♠ 3
 ♥ KQJ105
 ♦ A632
 ♣ A93

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

South's 1♥ is raised to 2♥ by north, unless playing Bergen. South may make a move on his prime hand, and will find a suitable dummy.

Most declarers should manage ten tricks, probably split between those declaring part-score, and those in game.

Pairs is usually a form of scoring favouring conservative bidding, but this hand is an exception.

19

♠ A1064
 ♥ 865
 ♦ 109
 ♣ AJ87
 ♠ KQJ852
 ♥ AKQ72
 ♦
 ♣ K3
 ♠ J104
 ♥ Q76543
 ♦ Q1065
 ♠ 973
 ♥ 93
 ♦ AKJ82
 ♣ 942

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West has the sort of hand we all love. West hopes to open 1♠, and then jump to 3♥ or 4♥.

Here he may be passed out in 1♠, making an embarrassing ten tricks, with 6♥ makeable.

Usually with such extreme distribution 2♣ is best avoided, as such hands are rarely passed out. Even here, south may rescue by protecting with 2♦.

At least the strong opener should find game, 4♥ being the best spot, twelve tricks makeable by ruffing the spade suit good.

How many are passed out in part-score will be an interesting question, and will everyone playing in hearts make twelve tricks ?

20

♠ K6
 ♥ K10752
 ♦ Q9865
 ♣ 10
 ♠ AJ1097432
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AQ3
 ♠ Q85
 ♥ QJ963
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 654
 ♠ A4
 ♥ AK1043
 ♣ KJ9872

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West will presumably open 4♣ or maybe 4♦ if playing South African Texas.

South, even vulnerable, will not let that sit, essaying 4NT, finding the diamond fit.

E/W are one light in 4♠, but 6♦ is makeable N/S.

It looks like all N/Ss will be plus, but how big a plus is the question - will anyone be in 6♦x making? My guess is that E/W will be 500 light in 5♠ more times than not.

Another interesting competitive hand.

21

♠ Q743
 ♥ J4
 ♦ 1096
 ♣ 10432
 ♠ 862
 ♥ Q9862
 ♦ AKJ5
 ♣ Q
 ♠ K5
 ♥ K10753
 ♦ Q43
 ♣ J97

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

East opens 1♥, and west does best to take it gently, as it is unclear what suit, if any, that he wishes to play in. His 2♣ will be followed by east's 2♦. It now looks clear that no trump is the strain, and as it seems a misfit west does best to simply sign off in 3NT at this point.

It looks like ten tricks are the limit. North probably starts with a spade, simplifying matters, and declarer manages three spades, three clubs, three diamonds, and a heart (or four clubs and two diamonds).

There is little scope for genius or error here, so it looks pretty flat at 430 E/W.

22

♠ 103
 ♥ Q97
 ♦ J10
 ♣ AJ5432
 ♠ A7
 ♥ KJ1063
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ K10
 ♠ J98654
 ♥
 ♦ Q94
 ♣ Q976
 ♠ KQ2
 ♥ A8542
 ♦ 8532
 ♣ 8

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

East should bid 1♠ over west's 1♥, and west will continue with either 2NT or 3♦, over which east will rebid his moth-eaten spades, probably raised to game.

Assuming south leads his club, then gets a ruff, he does well not to immediately give the contract away by setting down the heart ace, and likewise when in again after ace and another spade.

No matter - although diamonds are blocked, the run of the spades inflicts a double squeeze, south keeping the heart ace, north the club knave, and neither can hold four diamonds.

Looks like part-scores and the odd making game E/W, unless north loses a penalty in clubs.

23

♠ 764
 ♥ J108
 ♦ J32
 ♣ J1092
 ♠ 9
 ♥ A95
 ♦ KQ10984
 ♣ Q65
 ♠ AKQJ5
 ♥ 643
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K873
 ♠ 10832
 ♥ KQ72
 ♦ A65
 ♣ A4

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

South's weak NT may be overcalled in diamonds, or by a single suiter noise, resulting in 2♦ E/W. This looks likely to score 110 or 130, depending on whether declarer picks up south's Ax clubs.

South's 5 card major 1♦ could see west and north passing, and east intervene with his spades. West needs to pass, or there is every chance of getting overboard in no trump - though eight tricks are makeable in that strain. He has no easy way to play in south's "suit".

Prediction is for mainly E/W scores from 110 to 140, including 120 and 130.

24

♠ K72
 ♥ AK108
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KQ975
 ♠ A103
 ♥ J943
 ♦ AJ87
 ♣ 62
 ♠ QJ6
 ♥ Q752
 ♦ 102
 ♣ AJ108
 ♠ 9854
 ♥ 6
 ♦ KQ9654
 ♣ 43

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

North will start with 1♣. South can pass, in which case west doubles, and east probably bids 2NT, playing there. If declarer does all the right things he can get home, but many will fail to do so.

If south bids 1♦ north rebids 1♥, and south 2♦. It looks like declarer loses three trumps, two spades and a club - one off.

Occasionally E/W will find their heart fit. This can make it hard to handle, but the 4:1 trumps make it hard to handle.

Another one to defend, I reckon.

25

♠ AQ32
 ♥ Q1073
 ♦ 96
 ♣ 863
 ♠ K108
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ J752
 ♣ K109
 ♠ 65
 ♥ 9652
 ♦ A1084
 ♣ AJ2

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

This one could be passed out. East hasn't a vulnerable opener, but west may feel he has, since he has spades to go with his 12HCP. His weak NT should be passed out, and with the cards lying well, should make at least eight tricks, possibly nine or even ten.

In 5 card majors west has a 1♣ opener. This could have east declaring 1NT, maybe 2NT, but the outcome should be similar. Guessing the club knave is the key to extra tricks here, and the scores should be predominantly E/W, from zero to 180, maybe the odd optimistic 600/630.

26

♠ K8632
 ♥ K4
 ♦ K976
 ♣ Q4
 ♠ 1075
 ♥ AQJ83
 ♦ 82
 ♣ 532
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ 62
 ♦ AJ104
 ♣ J1076
 ♠ J9
 ♥ 10975
 ♦ Q53
 ♣ AK98

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

East's turn to have a weak NT, and he may well declare 2♥ after a transfer, though north may risk 2♠ and play there.

2♥ can easily be two light for 200 N/S. However, some may scrape home. The natural start is ace/king of clubs crashing north's queen, then north ruffing round three, followed by a diamond switch. Assuming east wins he can play a trump to the ace, felling the king, and get home after pitching his losing diamond on the winning club.

2♠ looks as if it makes on the nose, for 110 N/S, which may not be great, with some E/Ws losing 200.

27

♠ K5
 ♥ 76
 ♦ KJ9874
 ♣ J106
 ♠ Q10963
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 102
 ♣ K54
 ♠ A872
 ♥ QJ95
 ♦ 53
 ♣ 873
 ♠ J4
 ♥ A1084
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ AQ92

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

South can open a strong NT, and will presumably declare 3NT. West's opening spade lead puts his guessing game to the test at trick one. 400 if he guesses well, minus 50 otherwise.

An Acol 1♥ could see north declare 3NT. East is likely to lead the heart queen, and dummy will presumably win, nervous of a spade switch from west. Six rounds of diamonds squeeze everybody. Assuming declarer reads the position correctly, and has not discarded a spade from dummy, he can always prevail so long as he reads the situation correctly. The alternative gamble on the club finesse loses out.

Expect a few minus scores N/S here.

28

♠ K10653
 ♥
 ♦ AKJ10843
 ♣ 3
 ♠ A
 ♥ Q96
 ♦ 765
 ♣ K87652
 ♠ 87
 ♥ AK1042
 ♦ 92
 ♣ AJ109
 ♠ QJ942
 ♥ J8753
 ♦ Q
 ♣ Q4

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

Assuming north opens 1♦, east overcalls 1♥ and south bids 1♠. West may well raise hearts, or make an unassuming cue bid.

North will presumably bid 4♥, void-showing, with spade support. South has decent spades, but no ace or king, so will try to put the brakes on. Most will succeed.

On a heart lead declarer can try for an overtrick by running diamonds, to pitch clubs. One goes away, but the third round is ruffed and over-ruffed. Only if east has Axx spades will declarer succeed - not today.

E/W have a decent save in 6♣, minus 300 if south ruffs partner's second winner and gives a heart ruff, otherwise 100. 6♥ is not so pretty, down at least 500.