

# ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for Children in Need Commentary – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017



So - another year, another Children in Need event.

It seems no time since the last one does it ! And I still can't believe our running total - it's up to £881,950.09 .. truly you are amazing. And to think when it all began, back in 2001 we thought we might raise about £3,000 or maybe at a stretch, £5,000 on that first event. How wrong we were and how lovely to be proved so wrong by our wonderful bridge community.

The commentary for this set of hands was done by Brian Senior and we are very grateful to him - it will be interesting if the results agree with his analysis. In any case, I hope you enjoyed the hands and they weren't too horrid - I have almost forgotten how to play bridge so I am no judge (and I don't really have time to look at them anyway truth to tell).

Again ... thank you very much for supporting the event. Again. We really do appreciate it you know!

With very best wishes

*Anna & Mark*

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## Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

East has 23 HCP in a balanced hand so is too strong to open 2NT and instead should open 2♣. For those playing simple methods West will respond 2♦ and East rebid 2NT, showing 23-24. Should West bid on? There is no premium for bidding thin games at matchpoints so there is a strong case for passing when holding just two jacks as declarer may never get to your hand. That is the winning choice here as even 2NT should be defeated. South will give the seventh trick by leading a diamond, but where is the eighth?

## Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

It is normal to get to game on the N/S cards. If South opens 1♥ (Acol), North is just worth a 2♦ response and South's 2NT rebid forces to game. If South can open a strong no trump, North raises to 3NT. As the cards lie both 3NT and 4♥ fail by a trick, though 3NT could do worse on a club lead and continuation. Spade to the ace, heart to the queen, ducked, and declarer may go to the ♦A to repeat the finesse. That could be three down and earn West a well-earned pat on the back.

**Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 10 5 4<br/>♥ 10 3<br/>♦ 8 4 2<br/>♣ A 9 7 3 2</p> | <p>♠ K 7 2<br/>♥ A Q 9 6 5 2<br/>♦ 9 7 6<br/>♣ 5</p> |
| <p>♠ 3<br/>♥ K J 7 4<br/>♦ J 10 5 3<br/>♣ K 10 8 6</p> | <p>♠ A Q J 9 8 6<br/>♥ 8<br/>♦ A K Q<br/>♣ Q J 4</p> |

N/S can make 6♠ if declarer guesses the play and some will certainly get there. West must lead a trump or there are two club ruffs and 12 easy tricks. West must also win the defensive club trick to lead a second trump. Declarer wins, ruffs a club and rattles off the spades and diamonds, squeezing East who must bare the ♥K to keep the ♣K. More likely, on repeated trump leads declarer will take the heart finesse and be down one.

**Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ Q 4<br/>♥ 5 2<br/>♦ A 10 9 4 2<br/>♣ 10 8 4 3</p> | <p>♠ A K 9 6 2<br/>♥ J 9 7 4<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ A 6 2</p>  |
| <p>♠ 10 7<br/>♥ A Q 8 6<br/>♦ K Q 7 6 5<br/>♣ K J</p>  | <p>♠ J 8 5 3<br/>♥ K 10 3<br/>♦ 8 3<br/>♣ Q 9 7 5</p> |

North opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥ over the 2♦ response. Those playing 2-over-1 GF can bid a forcing 3♥ now but Acol players must choose between 4♥ and a 3♣ fourth-suit-forcing followed by 4♥ over North's 3NT as a way to show a hand too good for an immediate 4♥. Either way, 4♥ will be the final contract. Double dummy, 12 tricks can be made, but 11 is the more likely outcome at most tables.

**Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ K<br/>♥ 10 4 2<br/>♦ A Q 4 2<br/>♣ K 6 5 3 2</p>  | <p>♠ A Q 9 7<br/>♥ Q J 8<br/>♦ 8 6<br/>♣ Q 10 9 8</p> |
| <p>♠ 10 5 3<br/>♥ 9 7 6 5<br/>♦ K J 10 7 5<br/>♣ 7</p> | <p>♠ J 8 6 4 2<br/>♥ A K 3<br/>♦ 9 3<br/>♣ A J 4</p>  |

3NT is not a good contract but it cannot be defeated: ♦J to the queen, club to the jack then three more rounds of clubs, win the diamond return, cash the fifth club and play three rounds of hearts and North must give the ninth trick to the ♠J at the end. I would rather be in partscore but sometimes contracts are allowed to be lucky. With 12 HCP and a five-card suit facing an opening bid, usually INT, West will probably drive to game. How many will find the winning line?

**Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ Q 9<br/>♥ K 10 8 2<br/>♦ A K 5<br/>♣ Q 7 5 4</p>  | <p>♠ A 7 5<br/>♥ A 5 4 3<br/>♦ 9 7 4 2<br/>♣ 6 2</p>  |
| <p>♠ K 4 3 2<br/>♥ 7 6<br/>♦ J 10 6 3<br/>♣ A 10 9</p> | <p>♠ J 10 8 6<br/>♥ Q J 9<br/>♦ Q 8<br/>♣ K J 8 3</p> |

This time E/W have a combined 24 HCP and 3NT is completely cold as there is no suit on which the opposition can play to good effect and declarer just knocks out the heart and club aces. However, West will normally show a balanced 12-14, either by opening or by rebidding INT, and with 10 HCP East will leave it in INT. Only a pair playing a less standard no trump range, such as 13-15 or 14-16, may have a chance to get to game.

**Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ 8<br/>♥ 7 6 4<br/>♦ K Q 6 5 3 2<br/>♣ 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 6 5 4<br/>♥ J 2<br/>♦ A 7<br/>♣ Q 2</p> | <p>♠ 3<br/>♥ A K Q 10 8 3<br/>♦ J 8 4<br/>♣ A 9 7</p> |
| <p>♠ K 9 7 2<br/>♥ 9 5<br/>♦ 10 9<br/>♣ K J 6 4 3</p>   |   |

West opens 1♠ and rebids either 3♠ or 4♠ over the 2♥ response. East may rebid 4♥ over 3♠ but West will surely insist on playing in spades, where 11 tricks should be made, losing the ♠K plus a trick in whichever minor is led. While it is a little double dummy, 6♥ cannot be defeated. The best lead is a diamond, else declarer has an entry after setting up the spades. Declarer wins the ♦A and plays a second diamond. If North wins and plays a club, win the ace, ruff a diamond and run the hearts. South is squeezed.

**Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ 6 5 3<br/>♥ 7 4<br/>♦ K 9 6 3 2<br/>♣ 9 8 4</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10<br/>♥ J 10 5 2<br/>♦ Q 8 5<br/>♣ Q 5</p> | <p>♠ 9 7<br/>♥ 8 6 3<br/>♦ 10 7 4<br/>♣ A J 10 7 6</p> |
| <p>♠ A 8 4 2<br/>♥ A K Q 9<br/>♦ A J<br/>♣ K 3 2</p>  |  |

If it goes three passes to South he has a 2NT opening but North has too little to go on so that will be that. After the automatic spade lead there are seven tricks but no more. However, West has 11 HCP with two well-placed tens and, knowing that Love All is the time to try to declare on a competitive partscore deal, may stretch to open 1NT. South will double but North take-out to 2♦. If South passes, there are nine tricks for +110. If South goes on to 2NT, down he goes once again.

**Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ A 9 3 2<br/>♥ Q 9<br/>♦ Q J 9 7 4<br/>♣ 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q 6<br/>♥ 8 6 4<br/>♦ A K 8 3<br/>♣ Q J 10 9</p> | <p>♠ K J 8 5 4<br/>♥ A J 7 3<br/>♦ 6 5<br/>♣ K 7</p> |
| <p>♠ 10 7<br/>♥ K 10 5 2<br/>♦ 10 2<br/>♣ A 8 6 5 3</p>  |  |

Twelve opposite 12 means a borderline game once again. A 2-over-1 GF pair may commit to game with West's initial response, but Acol handles these hands a little better. West can respond 2♣ then bid an invitational 2NT over East's 2♥ rebid and East, with a minimum opening, has no reason to bid on. North leads the ♦Q against 2NT so West wins and knocks out the club, wins the diamond return and cashes clubs then plays on spades to establish eight tricks.

**Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ 5<br/>♥ A 7 6 5<br/>♦ K 10 8 6<br/>♣ J 10 9 5</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 7 4 3 2<br/>♥ J 9 8 4<br/>♦ 7 5<br/>♣ —</p> | <p>♠ K Q 6<br/>♥ Q 10<br/>♦ A J 4 2<br/>♣ A 7 6 2</p> |
| <p>♠ A J<br/>♥ K 3 2<br/>♦ Q 9 3<br/>♣ K Q 8 4 3</p>   |   |

E/W can make 4♠ while N/S make 5♣ with a winning diamond guess. N/S, however, may not even get into the auction, depending on East's choice of opening bid. If East opens 1♦ South may make an ugly 2♣ overcall, but what if East opens 1♣? That would surely silence N/S. If East opens a strong no trump, West will transfer and east complete. If West now passes, North can make a take-out double and from here the board will be won by whichever side buys the contract.

**Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ J 3<br/>♥ K 9 8 2<br/>♦ A 10 8 4<br/>♣ 6 5 2</p> | <p>♠ A 10 8 7 6<br/>♥ 10<br/>♦ K Q<br/>♣ A Q 8 7 4</p> |
| <p>♠ Q 4<br/>♥ A Q J 6 4<br/>♦ 9 7 3<br/>♣ K J 10</p> | <p>♠ K 9 5 2<br/>♥ 7 5 3<br/>♦ J 6 5 2<br/>♣ 9 3</p>   |

Playing strong no trump, West has an easy 1♥ opening and INT rebid. East will checkback and, finding no eight-card spade fit, settle for 3NT. Playing weak no trump, West may open either 1♥ or INT – is this a one-suiter, bidding and rebidding hearts, or a balanced hand, opening INT? A matter of personal style and judgement. 3NT makes courtesy of the even diamond split, declarer just giving up a heart. 4♠ also makes – win the second diamond and lead to the ♠Q, conceding two trump tricks and the ♦A.

**Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ A K 9<br/>♥ 8 6 5<br/>♦ 10 9 7<br/>♣ K Q 10 9</p> | <p>♠ 10 7 4 3<br/>♥ K Q 2<br/>♦ J 5 4 3<br/>♣ A 3</p> |
| <p>♠ Q J 5 2<br/>♥ 9 7 3<br/>♦ K Q 8 6<br/>♣ J 4</p>   | <p>♠ 8 6<br/>♥ A J 10 4<br/>♦ A 2<br/>♣ 8 7 6 5 2</p> |

At most tables, North will either open INT or open 1♣ and rebid INT, playing there in either case. After a diamond lead there are eight tricks for +120. On a spade lead and continuation, declarer would have time to set up both clubs and hearts so could make nine tricks. Occasionally, after 1♣ – 1♥ from N/S, West will double for take-out as he has four cards in both unbid suits. That might push N/S to play either 2♥ or 3♣, either of which can be made with an overtrick.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ 4<br/>♥ K 7 5 4<br/>♦ Q 6 5 3<br/>♣ 10 8 7 4</p> | <p>♠ K J 10 5 2<br/>♥ J 3<br/>♦ J 10 4<br/>♣ Q 6 2</p> |
| <p>♠ A Q 9 8 7<br/>♥ A 10 9 6 2<br/>♦ 2<br/>♣ 9 3</p> | <p>♠ 6 3<br/>♥ Q 8<br/>♦ A K 9 8 7<br/>♣ A K J 5</p>   |

East has only 10 HCP but I would open the hand 1♠ as all the high cards are in the long suits and are backed up by useful intermediate cards. South cannot afford to double with only two hearts so overcalls 2♦ and East bids 2♥, being too weak to be happy if partner passes a reopening double. South may double that or bid 3♣ and North give preference to diamonds. E/W make 3♥ while N/S are down one in 3♦. The winning action would be for West to double 3♦ for the magic +200, but it will be very brave to do so when holding four-card heart support.

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ Q<br/>♥ 10 9 8 6 2<br/>♦ 6 5 3<br/>♣ K 9 5 2</p> | <p>♠ K 10 8 3 2<br/>♥ Q 4<br/>♦ K 10 9<br/>♣ Q 6 3</p> |
| <p>♠ A 7 5 4<br/>♥ K<br/>♦ J 8 4 2<br/>♣ A J 10 4</p> | <p>♠ J 9 6<br/>♥ A J 7 5 3<br/>♦ A Q 7<br/>♣ 8 7</p>   |

If South opens 1♥ West may double and North make a pre-emptive raise. Most are likely to content themselves with 3♥, over which East bids 3♠, which is down one. More effective from North might be the full-blooded raise to 4♥, as East would almost certainly feel obliged to bid 4♠ – who knows, either or both games could be making – and that is down two. Where South opens INT, North transfers, South jumps to 3♥, and may play there for +140.

**Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 8 2<br/>♥ Q 9 2<br/>♦ J 9 5<br/>♣ Q J 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ A 7 6 4 3<br/>♥ J 8 5 3<br/>♦ Q 8<br/>♣ 7 5</p> | <p>♠ K 10<br/>♥ 10<br/>♦ K 10 4 3<br/>♣ A K 9 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 5<br/>♥ A K 7 6 4<br/>♦ A 7 6 2<br/>♣ —</p> |
|--|--|

If West passes over South's 1♥ opening North should raise to 2♥, better than INT when holding honour-to-three trumps and a small doubleton in a side suit. East will overcall 3♣ and South, perhaps, make a game try of 3♦, swiftly rejected by North who signs off in 3♥. That should be down one. West may dredge up a 1♠ overcall and North still bid 2♥. Now East may again bid 3♣ or may make a take-out double. Again, South tries for game and North turns him down.

**Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ Q 9 8 4<br/>♥ 7 3 2<br/>♦ 9 2<br/>♣ 9 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ K J 5 2<br/>♥ 4<br/>♦ A J 8 7 5 3<br/>♣ Q 2</p> | <p>♠ 10<br/>♥ Q J 9 6 5<br/>♦ Q 10 6 4<br/>♣ J 8 4</p> <p>♠ A 7 6 3<br/>♥ A K 10 8<br/>♦ K<br/>♣ A K 10 7</p> |
|---|---|

West opens 1♦ and South doubles the 1♥ response. West's 1♠ rebid relieves North of the obligation to bid and East gives preference to 2♦, South again doubling. Whether North responds 2x or 3♣, East is likely to compete with 3♦, which is unbeatable. If South competes further, both 3♠ and 4♣ can be made as both majors are well-placed for declarer and the clubs split three-two. There is some work to be done to make either contract, however.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 10 7 6 5 3<br/>♥ 8 6 5 4<br/>♦ Q 6 5 3<br/>♣ —</p> <p>♠ A J 9<br/>♥ A 10 7 2<br/>♦ K 8<br/>♣ 10 8 7 3</p> | <p>♠ Q 2<br/>♥ K 9 3<br/>♦ 4<br/>♣ A K Q J 9 6 5</p> <p>♠ K 8 4<br/>♥ Q J<br/>♦ A J 10 9 7 2<br/>♣ 4 2</p> |
|--|--|

With the ♦K providing a discard for east's third heart, 6♣ requires only the spade finesse – not bad given that said finesse is through an opposing bidder. However, I expect most to stop off in 3NT. East opens 1♣ and South overcalls 1♦. When West bids 1♥, North can pre-empt with 3♦ and East is a bit stuck so, not wanting to go beyond 3NT, makes a take-out double, and West bids 3NT. South wins the diamond lead but declarer has the rest for +490.

**Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ J 8 3<br/>♥ A 5 4<br/>♦ 5 2<br/>♣ A K Q 10 7</p> <p>♠ K 10 7 6 2<br/>♥ Q J 6 2<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ 9 4 3</p> | <p>♠ Q<br/>♥ 10 7<br/>♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 3<br/>♣ 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 5 4<br/>♥ K 9 8 3<br/>♦ A 6 4<br/>♣ J 6</p> |
|---|---|

When East opens 3♦, it will go two passes to North who will double. The winning action now is for South to bid 3NT, but he will surely expect there to be a four-four major-suit fit so will instead cuebid 4♦. North will bid 4♥, no doubt a little unhappily, but will find that the contract is unbeatable on careful play, losing two hearts and one spade, with the fortunate fall of the ♠Q meaning that the ♠J can be set up for the tenth trick. Declarer must be careful, however.

**Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

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

Those playing five-card majors will have the advantage on this one as facing a five-card 1♠ opener it is quite attractive for North to jump preemptively to 4♣, and that may well shut out the opposition completely. 4♣ is down two but who cares when E/W can make 11 tricks in either red suit? Facing a possible strong no trump with only four spades, as in weak no trump Acol, jumping to 4♣ risks getting a minus when a plus is available and a quiet raise to 2♠ will therefore appeal to many.

**Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

The deal belongs to N/S in a spade partscore. On the friendly lie of the cards, it is pretty much routine to come to nine tricks for +140. When West opens 1♦, North has a borderline double – 13 good points, but 4-3-3-3 shape and vulnerable. I guess most will double and South is worth a jump to 2♠ because of his distribution. West may bid 3♦ over that, which should be down two if he is left to play there, but North will probably congratulate partner for picking his only four-card suit by competing to 3♠, ending the auction.

**Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

If you like to play an all-action game and let everyone else at the table guess, you might open 4♥ as North. That is a big winner because, unless West is willing to double with only 10 HCP, 4♥ will scoop the pool and 11 tricks made. If North opens 1♥, however, East can make a weak jump overcall of 3♣ and West raise to game. Will North be willing to bid 5♥ on his own? It would be somewhere in the range of brave to foolhardy to do so unless South scraped up a negative double of 3♣ to show some values. 5♣ is down only two so is an excellent advance sacrifice.

**Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

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

E/W are on the heart finesse for the thirteenth trick and should have little difficulty in reaching 6♣. East will open 1♠ and, assuming a pass from South, West can respond 2NT, game-forcing spade raise. East should be able to show the club shortage and, once West makes a cuebid, East has enough top cards and extra trump length that he will drive to slam. As always, an aggressive weak jump overcall of 3♣ makes life tough. West cuebids 4♣ to show a good 4♣ bid, and East must cuebid to show his extras.

**Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ K 8 5<br/>♥ Q 9 6 5 4 3<br/>♦ 8 4<br/>♣ 8 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 4 3<br/>♥ A K 8<br/>♦ A 5 3<br/>♣ 9 7 3</p> | <p>♠ Q J 9 7<br/>♥ 10 7 2<br/>♦ J 9<br/>♣ J 6 4 2</p> |
| <p>♠ 6 2<br/>♥ J<br/>♦ K Q 10 7 6 2<br/>♣ A K Q 10</p>   |   |

N/S can make 4♦ or 2♥, while the E/W limit is 1♠. When South opens 1♦ West must either double or overcall INT. I don't like the latter with a complete minimum and diamond stopper that has not been improved by sitting over the diamond bidder, so I'd pick double. North bids 1♥, East is just worth 1♠, and South rebids 2♦. Now West competes to 2♠ and, when that comes back to South, he can bid 3♣ to show his six-four shape. Indeed, the expectation of an opposing 2♠ bid is why South bid 2♦ and not 2♣ at his second turn.

**Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ K Q 5 4 3 2<br/>♥ 7 4<br/>♦ K 5 3<br/>♣ A 6</p> <p>♠ 8 7<br/>♥ K Q J 9 8 6 2<br/>♦ 4 2<br/>♣ 10 4</p> | <p>♠ A 9<br/>♥ A 10<br/>♦ A Q 9 8 6<br/>♣ 9 8 7 5</p> |
| <p>♠ J 10 6<br/>♥ 5 3<br/>♦ J 10 7<br/>♣ K Q J 3 2</p>   |   |

West has a classical 3♥ opening and North a normal 3♠ overcall. East should bid 4♥ now, though there is no guarantee of success from his point of view. That may end the auction, in which case West will win the spade lead, draw trumps and take the diamond finesse for the contract; +420. He could make 11 double dummy by setting up diamonds before drawing the second round of trumps, but that is an improbable line. If South bids 4♠, East doubles and good defence collects +500 and a near top score.

**Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ 10 3<br/>♥ K 3<br/>♦ K 6 5 4<br/>♣ A K 9 5 3</p> <p>♠ K 8 5<br/>♥ 8 4<br/>♦ Q 10 8 3<br/>♣ Q 6 4 2</p> | <p>♠ A J 7 6 2<br/>♥ A 9 7<br/>♦ 9 7<br/>♣ J 8 7</p> |
| <p>♠ Q 9 4<br/>♥ Q J 10 6 5 2<br/>♦ A J 2<br/>♣ 10</p>  |  |

N/S can make 4♥ – with the ♠J inside there is no need to take a diamond finesse as the third diamond goes away on the king of clubs. North opens 1♣, East overcalls 1♠ and South bids 2♥. When West competes with 2♠ North passes and South in turn competes with 3♥. An ace and three kings with nothing potentially wasted in spades should be sufficient to see North raise to 4♥.

**Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ J 8<br/>♥ A 10 7 5 2<br/>♦ K<br/>♣ J 9 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ 6 4<br/>♥ J 4 3<br/>♦ 10 6 2<br/>♣ A K Q 10 8</p> | <p>♠ K 5 2<br/>♥ K 9 8 6<br/>♦ 8 7 5 4<br/>♣ 4 3</p> |
| <p>♠ A Q 10 9 7 3<br/>♥ Q<br/>♦ A Q J 9 3<br/>♣ 2</p>  |  |

N/S can make slam in either of South's long suits, but they are not likely to get there. 4♠ will be the popular spot and +680 a solid enough matchpoint score. Vulnerable and facing a passed partner, West is not even close to being worth a 2♣ overcall, but I know some will bid 2♣ nonetheless. North will be tempted to bid but, with no spade fit, to pass and wait for a reopening double looks better. If South does reopen with a double, North passes and collects +800 and a lot of matchpoints. But South may, of course, reopen with 2/3♦ instead.

**Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ♠ 10 8 4 2<br>♥ 5<br>♦ A 8 3<br>♣ 9 8 7 3 2 | ♠ 6<br>♥ A Q 10 7 2<br>♦ K 9 7 5<br>♣ Q 5 4 |
| ♠ Q 9<br>♥ J 9 6<br>♦ 10 6 4 2<br>♣ A K J 6 | ♠ A K J 7 5 3<br>♥ K 8 4 3<br>♦ Q J<br>♣ 10 |

When South opens 1♠, North will either raise to 2♠ or, if playing such methods, make a pre-emptive raise to 3♠. Short in spades and holding fair values, East can double for take-out, but South will go on to 4♠ over 3♠ or at least make a game try over 2♠ – probably accepted by North as an ace, a singleton and the fourth trump makes for quite a decent hand. 4♠ is an easy make despite the losing diamond finesse. Meanwhile, E/W can make nine tricks in a red suit so have a paying save if they can find it.

**Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| ♠ 10 9 6 3<br>♥ K 8 7 5 3<br>♦ K 10 8<br>♣ 4 | ♠ A 7 5<br>♥ 2<br>♦ Q J 7 5<br>♣ 10 9 7 3 2 |
| ♠ K J 4 2<br>♥ J 10 9<br>♦ 6 4<br>♣ A 8 6 5  | ♠ Q 8<br>♥ A Q 6 4<br>♦ A 9 3 2<br>♣ K Q J  |

This could be the dullest board of the set – famous last words! South is too strong for a 1NT opening and, if he opens 1♥ North, with five trumps, two kings and a singleton, is worth a limit raise to 3♥, South going on to game. With North's diamond loser going away on the clubs, ten tricks are a matter of routine. E/W have a paying save in 5♣ doubled, costing –500 against –620, but who will find it?

**Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| ♠ 8 6 4 3<br>♥ J 3<br>♦ J 9 6 2<br>♣ Q 6 5  | ♠ A 10 7<br>♥ K 9 8 6<br>♦ K Q 8 4<br>♣ A 9  |
| ♠ K Q 9 5<br>♥ Q 5 2<br>♦ 7 3<br>♣ J 10 7 4 | ♠ J 2<br>♥ A 10 7 4<br>♦ A 10 5<br>♣ K 8 3 2 |

If playing a strong no trump, that will be North's opening bid and South may use Stayman then bid 2NT, invitational. North has a close decision now, with passing being more successful than bidding on. A 1♥ opening will see East pass as the hand contains the wrong shortage for a double, and North will rebid 1NT over the 1♠ response. South can use 2♣, Checkback, now, and follow through with 2NT over North's 2♠ which, while showing three spades, also denies five hearts. North has the same close decision.

**Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| ♠ 5 3 2<br>♥ Q J 8<br>♦ Q J 3<br>♣ A K 6 3 | ♠ K Q J 10 9 8 6 4<br>♥ 10<br>♦ A 10 2<br>♣ 5 |
| ♠ 7<br>♥ K 9 7 3<br>♦ 9 8 4<br>♣ J 8 7 4 2 | ♠ A<br>♥ A 6 5 4 2<br>♦ K 7 6 5<br>♣ Q 10 9   |

East opens 1♥, West responds 2♣, and North overcalls 4♠. East has nothing to spare so will pass but West does have extra values so must bid again. With no great distribution, West should double, not for penalties but just to say that E/W should be doing something. With a rather empty hand containing a lot of potential losers, East should pass, settling for whatever penalty is available. On this occasion, it is +300 and, with E/W limited to ten tricks on offense, that is the best they can do.



**Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ 9 7 6 4 3<br/>♥ A K 2<br/>♦ A 10 5<br/>♣ Q 2</p> <p>♠ Q 5 2<br/>♥ 10 8 7 6 5 4<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ A 8 4</p> | <p>♠ A K J<br/>♥ J 3<br/>♦ K 4<br/>♣ 10 9 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ 10 8<br/>♥ Q 9<br/>♦ Q 9 8 7 6 3 2<br/>♣ K J</p> |
|---|---|

South is not worth a vulnerable 3♦ opening but those playing weak 2♦ can open that instead, with North raising pre-emptively to 3♦. Should that end the auction, it makes exactly. The rest will have to pass and West too will pass as the hearts are hardly suitable for a weak two opening. North opens a weak no trump and East may overcall 2♣ if natural. South would bid 2♦ over that and a third diamond over West's club raise. If East does not overcall, South can transfer to diamonds at the three level.

**Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 8 2<br/>♥ K Q 5 3<br/>♦ K 5 3<br/>♣ Q 10 9 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 3<br/>♥ A 10 2<br/>♦ A 8 7 6 4 2<br/>♣ 7</p> | <p>♠ Q 9 7 6<br/>♥ J 7 6<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ A K J 6 5</p> <p>♠ A K 5 4<br/>♥ 9 8 4<br/>♦ Q 10 9<br/>♣ 8 4 3</p> |
|--|--|

Even if playing a weak 2♦, the West hand is hardly an ideal example as there is such a risk of missing a five-three major-suit fit and even a possible game. Those who do open 2♦ are likely to play there, making exactly. If West passes East will open 1♣ and rebid 1♠ over the 1♦ response. Passing and collecting +110 would be the winning action, but West will be afraid of missing game if East is stronger so may bid again, though no bid is ideal.