



The 2021 Charity Challenge Pairs Thursday 18th March

This year we are raising funds for two different, but closely related Charities – Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. And we have extended the event to run all week, with different hands each day.

It's been what can only be described as an extraordinary year – one year ago you joined us to raise money for RNLI, with a final cheque at the end for £5,595.88 and a total for RNLI over the past three years of £17,349.05 for which they were more than grateful.

The past year has seen charities receiving less and less as the pandemic has taken hold – many people of course have less disposable income and the charities themselves have found that many of their traditional avenues, such as the Charity Shops, Street Collections etc, are unavailable to them. Which is why we ask you to donate, through our website, so that we can send as much as possible to them. If you haven't already done so, please [click here to go to the page](#) that gives you all the information.

The future year for Simultaneous Pairs has other Charity events to enjoy - there will be one in July to raise funds for Kidney Research and of course there will be the Children in Need Pairs in November – well we couldn't NOT run that could we ! We are also looking at the possibility of taking on the Bill Hughes event in June ...

... and who knows, we may be able to run a WorldWide event again, and maybe one or two events to raise funds for Youth Bridge. Our website will let you know what and when – I will put things onto the front page at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/> and our calendar at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/info/calendar.asp> will be kept up to date.

Do join us for some of these events if you can – whether virtually or actually joining in “round the table”. We love to have your company.

We do hope you have enjoyed yourselves, and you will know by know whether the commentator has got it right! Probably most of you are still playing online but there may be one or two clubs getting back to face-to-face bridge. And let's hope that by next year or better still later this year we will all be back at the green baize table!



Be well – stay safe – and thank you so much for joining us. And because some of you wonder why on earth we moved to Orkney, well it's just a beautiful place to be, and this is the view from our office window – who can argue with that ! And there's even a rainbow to enjoy – we get a lot of rainbows here, something to do with the rain I guess, and the lovely light we have from being so far north.

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Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Not much joy for either side on the deal that kicks off this Thursday's Sim. Bizarrely, according to Deep Finesse, N/S make 2♦, but not 2♠. Double dummy one can see the sense of that: the diamonds sit well for club ruffing in diamonds and eight tricks will be easily scored as long as declarer doesn't try to draw trumps and set up spades. Indeed, anybody playing in diamonds should presumably steer well clear of those lines as they mean their diamond contract will be a bottom vs. the pairs in spades anyway. But let's face it, nobody will be in diamonds.

Meanwhile hearts does not play well E/W. Deep Finesse can't help himself...he has to mention that 1♥ makes by West but not by East...that would be after North opens 1♠ and East's insufficient 1♥ psyche is left in...One assumes the difference is that N/S can conveniently draw trumps from trick one if South is on lead.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

A part-score battle in the red suits which is pretty inevitably won by E/W's heart suit. Nine tricks for each side.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Although their values are thin E/W make a couple of games on this Board: nine top tricks in 3NT, while the normal 4♥ makes after the first club play is the standard low to the nine.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Assuming, as seems likely that East is going to play the NTs on this deal, either opening or rebidding NT, South may not find the diamond lead. Even if West has been able to respond 1♥ to 1♣, for instance, South has an attractive heart opening lead. Worst off will be the Precision players beginning 1♣ by East and INT response by West...they are booked in for a bottom as North shoots out a diamond as fast as he can.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

3NT makes by South as the heart finesse is into the safe hand. By North it'll fail a trick.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Misfitting two suiters should not be played in notrumps! This hand is a case in point: both 7 card fits make if they are trumps...whilst 3NT DESERVES to go down...will go down double-dummy on the diamond lead. But in practice, if played by North, as surely it would be, it is going to get a spade lead and wrap up 9 tricks.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

3NT is a comfortable make, though there are a lot of ways to set about it. There is a spade entry to the East hand so that diamonds can be set up for 9 tricks. One hopes nobody will waste that entry to take the fruitless heart finesse.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Life surely isn't fair...Neither side has a fit, they both have about half the HCP, yet N/S make quite a few tricks in either spades or diamonds whilst E/W can't make a sausage.*

To make most tricks in diamonds declarer will have to pick clubs. As for a spade partial, with spades and diamonds behaving the defence have nothing to threaten declarer with.

*Where does this expression come from? In some countries it seems, they believe there is nothing good in a sausage, in particular very little meat content...so the chances of not being able to make a sausage are low!

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Presumably E/W will be able to stop in INT, though the red suits make at the two level. With everything behaving nicely eight tricks should not prove difficult.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

You sat N/S on this deal and didn't get to 3NT: what are you, man or mouse? 21 HPC, nothing exciting about the shape, yet 3NT rolls home! Try as they might E/W are not going to get more than 2 hearts, a club and a diamond. And yet, it is quite likely to be E/W that plays the notrumps...if South decides not to open that rubbishy 11 HPC, it will sometimes continue INT by West all pass.

The scenario to really irritate E/W is if West gets to open 1♣ and North tries 1♦...I can easily imagine the odd South going berserk over that: clubs well stopped, diamond fit - surely 3NT will be a bit of a chance.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

The North Souths who manage to stay low on this hand will be rewarded. Not so hard in the systems where South is opening 1♣, but after a INT opening it is harder for North to accurately downgrade their hand.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

Several part scores in this session it seems and this time N/S win the money in spades. If E/W can push N/S to the 3 level that is the best they can hope for. With the hearts behaving badly that will make just 8 tricks.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

This is the first of a few slams in this session. Clubs is the spot...I do hope no E/W pair thinks they have to play in No Trumps.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Again a part-score hand with a battle of the bidding - nine tricks to N/S in hearts or nine to E/W in spades and nothing to the play. A case of "he who dares wins" I guess.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

E/W easily make 6♦ on this collection, not even needing to make use of the favourable heart position. But the assets aren't enough, I think, to tempt the field into slam zone. Hearts is the second-best scoring contract, but 3NT will be the common score, making only nine tricks on a spade lead, more otherwise. How many more will depend on South's return when in with the ♥K – the SQx will be best. But it is hard to see why South would be starting with anything other than a spade....

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

3♥ N/S is the limit on this hand. Certainly an early diamond lead will hold it to nine tricks,

but what about otherwise, say on a club lead from West? Is guessing hearts enough to let South make an extra trick? Suppose a club to the king and 3 rounds of hearts to dummy and a diamond up: East rises and plays a club to dummy and then wins the next diamond and – ah. It would be nice to have another club on hand to tap declarer, but he does not! So, East is forced into doing declarer's work either in spades or diamonds...a spade or a low diamond and it is all over, but what about the J♦ exit? This puts declarer in hand. South can't afford to ruff the winning diamond to dummy in order to play a spade up as he will have two losing spades that way, having run out of trumps in dummy. Nine tricks.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A Q ♥ A K 6 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ A 10 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ K 6 2 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ K J 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 4 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ A J 7 6 3 ♣ Q 9</p> <p>♠ J 9 8 7 5 ♥ 10 9 8 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 8</p>
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Deep Finesse likes both Moysian major games, but in practice 3NT will be the spot. That will be a trick short by my reckoning. For example a diamond lead to the king, two rounds of spades followed by 3 rounds of hearts...

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ K J 5 3 ♥ K ♦ J 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ K 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 6 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 7 ♣ Q J 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ A J 9 8 6 5 ♥ A K Q 4 ♦ A 4 2 ♣ A 4 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 8 ♥ Q 10 4 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 7 3</p>
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I'm uneasy about this E/W grand slam in diamonds. Suppose it is played by West on a trump lead...yes declarer makes by drawing trumps and playing on hearts, but perhaps the occasional declarer will want to take 13 tricks by way of 3 spade ruffs and these declarers are going to be sorely disappointed as they will have to attempt to cash the heart ace at a point

where North can still ruff it. This line needs 4-2 hearts or the defender with 1 heart to have only 1 trump. Drawing trumps and setting up hearts works unless hearts are 5-1 with North holding the length. So I guess I shouldn't be feeling sorry for the spade ruffes.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ 8 7 3 ♥ 9 8 7 4 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ K 6</p>	<p>♠ K Q 6 2 ♥ A ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 9 4 ♥ J 6 ♦ K Q 7 2 ♣ 10 5 2</p> <p>♠ J 5 ♥ K Q 10 5 3 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ J 9 3</p>
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I'm thinking that by the end of the auction on this deal, even if it is South on lead to 3NT he will know enough to start with a diamond, holding declarer to nine tricks. It is conceivable that some North-Souths will get overboard and play 6♣ and they will get a top which does not look entirely deserved...

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ A 9 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ 9 8 6 5 ♣ 10 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K J 7 ♥ A J 9 4 3 ♦ Q 10 ♣ K 8 3</p> <p>♠ 10 3 2 ♥ K Q 10 7 ♦ A J 3 ♣ A J 7</p> <p>♠ Q 8 6 5 4 ♥ 2 ♦ K 7 4 2 ♣ Q 9 2</p>
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After a 1♥ opening by North any East overcalling INT will get what he deserves. South is likely either to leave INT in and begin with a spade or bid 2♠, in which case the club lead from West will be +140 thank you very much.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

	♠ AKQ	
	♥ K5	
	♦ KJ75	
	♣ 9642	
♠ J8		♠ 972
♥ 10762		♥ QJ94
♦ A9642		♦ Q83
♣ J7		♣ AQ3
	♠ 106543	
	♥ A83	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K1085	

A pedestrian 4♠ N/S. Those that try notrumps are in for a nasty surprise, not even making nine tricks.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	♠ J83	
	♥ A9	
	♦ 53	
	♣ AJ10976	
♠ 1097		♠ Q65
♥ 10865		♥ QJ743
♦ K102		♦ AQJ96
♣ K82		♣
	♠ AK42	
	♥ K2	
	♦ 874	
	♣ Q543	

Back to part-scores. N/S can bid 4♣ over E/W's 3♥. There is nothing to the play in either contract.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

	♠ AK	
	♥ Q8632	
	♦ KQ97	
	♣ 72	
♠ 74		♠ QJ952
♥ J105		♥ AK
♦ J8543		♦ 106
♣ Q54		♣ KJ98
	♠ 10863	
	♥ 974	
	♦ A2	
	♣ A1063	

4♥ N/S will only make 10 tricks if the hearts are double-dummied. In isolation ducking is correct. But in practice East will have bid and that really does make the hand easy as South needs either player to hold both the ace and king of trumps and if East has bid it is highly unlikely that West has both.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

	♠ 32	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ QJ98	
	♣ A10942	
♠ 75		♠ A86
♥ KQ43		♥ 9752
♦ 752		♦ AK4
♣ KQ85		♣ J63
	♠ KQJ1094	
	♥ 1086	
	♦ 1063	
	♣ 7	

N/S's hand in 3♠. The club ruffs mean E/W's heart contract will only make 7 tricks. Not the most exciting deal in the world to end with, but hopefully everyone had fun anyway!