

## Bill Hughes Simultaneous Pairs

<p>Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q J 9 7 ♥ K 10 4 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ 4 3</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 8 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 8 7 5 2</td> <td>♥ Q J 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 10 8 6 5 3</td> <td>♦ 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A</td> <td>♣ Q J 10 9 8 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ A Q ♣ K 7 6 5</p>	♠ 8 2	♠ 10 5	♥ 8 7 5 2	♥ Q J 9	♦ K 10 8 6 5 3	♦ 4 2	♣ A	♣ Q J 10 9 8 2	<p>Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 7 5 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ K 7 6 4 2 ♣ J 8</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 4</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 10 8 6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 9 7 4</td> <td>♥ 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 10 5</td> <td>♦ A Q 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 9 6 2</td> <td>♣ 7 5 4 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 3 ♥ J 10 6 5 2 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A K 10</p>	♠ J 4	♠ K 10 8 6 2	♥ K 9 7 4	♥ 3	♦ J 10 5	♦ A Q 8	♣ Q 9 6 2	♣ 7 5 4 3
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<p>A straightforward 4♠ contract for the first board. Even at love all, the East hand is not suitable for a 3♣ opening in second seat, so unless N/S are playing mini NT or some other light opening system South will be allowed to open in third seat with 1♣, 1♠ or 1NT according to system. An auction which gets the weaker hand, North, to declare will on this occasion do well as on the ♣Q lead North knows to duck; when the singleton ace appears he has 11 tricks.</p>	<p>Many Souths will look no further than the 5-card major, but the South hand could plausibly be opened 1NT whether that is 12-14, 13-15, 14-16 or even 15-17. Opposite the stronger variants North may get too high and try 3NT (or 4♥). Both games have some play but at matchpoints are not really desirable. 3NT is more likely to make than 4♥, but we would expect any positive score for N/S to score reasonably, +150 healthily above average, and making game to be huge.</p>																
<p>Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 6 5 4 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ K 9 ♣ Q 6 3 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 9 7 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q J 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 10 9 5 2</td> <td>♥ Q</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 8 5 4</td> <td>♦ A Q 10 7 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 7</td> <td>♣ A K 5</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 ♥ K 7 6 4 3 ♦ 6 2 ♣ J 10 9 8 4</p>	♠ 9 7 2	♠ A Q J 10	♥ J 10 9 5 2	♥ Q	♦ J 8 5 4	♦ A Q 10 7 3	♣ 7	♣ A K 5	<p>Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 9 ♥ 10 6 ♦ K 9 7 6 3 ♣ 10 7 6 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 5 4 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K Q 5 2</td> <td>♥ A J 8 7 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 10 8 4</td> <td>♦ 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q J</td> <td>♣ A 9 4 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 10 7 6 3 ♥ 9 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ K 8 5</p>	♠ 5 4 2	♠ J 8	♥ K Q 5 2	♥ A J 8 7 4 3	♦ J 10 8 4	♦ 5	♣ Q J	♣ A 9 4 3
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<p>North will usually open with bidding with 1♠ and East has little option but to start with a double on such a strong hand. N/S are unlikely to do any more bidding, and East's first decision comes after 1♠ – dbl – P – 2♥ – P – ? It's probably sensible to call this a balanced hand: a 2NT rebid shows about 19-21 so this is a 3NT rebid. Not very scientific bidding, but it gets to the best contract (as long as West passes). On the best lead of a club, declarer can start with the ♦Q from hand to generate three diamond entries to dummy to enable four spade tricks.</p>	<p>N/S are making 4♠, but it may not be so easy for them to get there. East might open either 1♥ or 2♥ – unless playing a very sound style of weak twos, the two aces, the 6-4 shape and the bad heart pips make 1♥ preferable. If South finds a 3♠ overcall over 2♥ North will raise, but this overcall traditionally shows a slightly stronger hand. After a 1♥ opening, a possible start to the auction is 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♥- P – P – dbl – P – ? but North needs to take a rosy view to force to game. With E/W making nine tricks in hearts, +170 for N/S will score reasonably well.</p>																

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<p>Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 9 5 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ A 10 6</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A J 6 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 7 6</td> <td>♥ A Q 10 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 8 6</td> <td>♦ A 7 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K J 7 4 3</td> <td>♣ 9 8 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 7 2 ♥ J 9 8 4 ♦ K Q 10 4 ♣ Q 5</p>	♠ A J 6 3	♠ 10 4	♥ 7 6	♥ A Q 10 5	♦ 8 6	♦ A 7 5 2	♣ K J 7 4 3	♣ 9 8 2	<p>Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 3 2 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A 10 8 5 ♣ A 10 8 3</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K Q 7</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 10 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 6 5</td> <td>♥ K J 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 9 7 4</td> <td>♦ Q 6 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q J 4</td> <td>♣ K</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 8 5 ♥ A 8 4 3 ♦ J ♣ 9 7 6 5 2</p>	♠ K Q 7	♠ J 10 9 4	♥ Q 6 5	♥ K J 7 2	♦ K 9 7 4	♦ Q 6 3 2	♣ Q J 4	♣ K
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<p>North will find an opening bid in third seat, and N/S are likely to end up declaring 1NT one way or another. West has an easy club lead against 1NT by South (e.g. 1♠ – 1NT – P). The natural line of playing a spade to the king and a diamond towards hand goes off if East finds the impressive play of rising with the ace on the first round of diamonds to play a second club. East has a difficult lead against a weak 1NT opening; there is much to be said for a passive club lead, which makes the defence easier (as West can duck the second round maintaining communication).</p>	<p>Even with no aces, the West hand is still an opening bid in modern bridge and whether the opening is 1♦, 1♣ or 1NT he may well end up declaring 1NT. 1NT is often one of the most interesting contracts at matchpoints. The passive choice here (a spade) is less successful than on board 3 because it gives declarer a tempo to start setting up tricks, but the winning club lead looks antipercentage in the long term. +120 for 1NT+1 will be a decent result for E/W. Over a weak NT, East may try Stayman - unlucky this time as there is no major suit fit and even 2♦ is too high.</p>																
<p>Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 9 ♥ A Q 8 7 5 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 9 4</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K Q</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 10 7 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 10 9</td> <td>♥ 6 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q 9 7 4 2</td> <td>♦ A 10 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 8 6 2</td> <td>♣ J 7 5</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A Q 10 3</p>	♠ K Q	♠ A 10 7 5 2	♥ J 10 9	♥ 6 3	♦ Q 9 7 4 2	♦ A 10 8	♣ 8 6 2	♣ J 7 5	<p>Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 8 6 3 ♥ Q 7 4 ♦ J 10 8 ♣ 10 3 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 10 7 5 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 10 9</td> <td>♥ A K 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 3 2</td> <td>♦ A 7 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 8 6</td> <td>♣ A 9 5</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ K Q 9 6 ♣ K Q 7 4</p>	♠ J 10 7 5 2	♠ 9 4	♥ J 10 9	♥ A K 8 6	♦ 3 2	♦ A 7 5 4	♣ J 8 6	♣ A 9 5
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<p>4♥ is makeable for N/S with favourable breaks, but in practice a heart partial will be more common. A number of people may open the North hand 1NT (tempting with all those scattered honours) which will buy the contract. East's obvious spade lead should take the first six tricks. On the second round of spades, East can choose which spade pip to play to give West suit preference between the red suits: having led the 5 (fourth highest), say, he can continue with the 2 to suggest a diamond switch and the 7 for a heart.</p>	<p>East's choice of opening bid will probably determine who declares the hand. A 1♦ opening will garner a 1NT overcall from North who will play there and should make it for a good result. After a strong 1NT opening from East, South will double either 1NT or West's escape to 2♠ (after a transfer) which is likely to result in a minus score, unless N/S defeat 2♠x. After a 1♥ opening from East, South has no suitable call available; the disciplined action is to <i>pass</i> although on this occasion this will not be a success.</p>																

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<p>Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ J 10 ♦ K Q 9 6 ♣ K J 4</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 8 7 6 5</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 6 3</td> <td>♥ Q 9 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 10 3 2</td> <td>♦ A 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A 8 7 2</td> <td>♣ 10 9 3</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ 10 9 ♥ A K 7 5 4 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ Q 6 5</p> </div>	♠ 8 7 6 5	♠ K J 2	♥ 6 3	♥ Q 9 8 2	♦ 10 3 2	♦ A 7 5	♣ A 8 7 2	♣ 10 9 3	<p>Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 4 2 ♥ 10 9 7 5 3 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q 7 2</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q 10 9 8</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q J 6</td> <td>♥ A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K Q 7 3</td> <td>♦ A 10 9 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 9</td> <td>♣ K J 6 3</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ 6 3 ♥ K 8 4 2 ♦ J 5 4 ♣ 10 8 5 4</p> </div>	♠ A Q 10 9 8	♠ J 7 5	♥ Q J 6	♥ A	♦ K Q 7 3	♦ A 10 9 8 6	♣ 9	♣ K J 6 3
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<p>N/S are likely to end in 3NT by one route or another after South shows a heart suit. Another opportunity for a passive lead from East and here the club lead is by far the most successful. The key to the hand is for West to duck both the opening lead and the second round of clubs to maintain communication. West can see the 87 of clubs and can work out that with 109xx East would have led a low one, so 109x is very likely. Any other lead is likely to give declarer 10 tricks.</p>	<p>Slam in spades or diamonds is essentially on the spade finesse for E/W. (6♦ is a better contract but 6♠ scores more when both make.) This time it is wrong, so any N/S conceding 650 in 4♠+1 will feel unlucky to get below average. After the auction starts 1♦ – 1♠ it looks best for East to raise to 2♠ immediately. If West can splinter with 4♣, East will be turned off by poor spades (in context) and a club holding that is not very useful and they are likely to stop at the four level.</p>																
<p>Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ K 5 3 2 ♦ — ♣ K Q 9 6 2</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A J 5 4</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 8 7 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 9 7 4</td> <td>♥ A J 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 9 7</td> <td>♦ K Q 10 6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 5 3</td> <td>♣ J</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ 3 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A 8 5 4 3 ♣ A 10 8 7 4</p> </div>	♠ A J 5 4	♠ Q 8 7 6	♥ Q 9 7 4	♥ A J 6	♦ J 9 7	♦ K Q 10 6 2	♣ 5 3	♣ J	<p>Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q 5 3 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ A 10 9 7 3</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 9 7 4 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A 9 6</td> <td>♥ K 10 8 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 6 5</td> <td>♦ Q 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K</td> <td>♣ J 5 4 2</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ 10 8 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ A J 8 7 3 ♣ Q 8 6</p> </div>	♠ K J 9 7 4 2	♠ A 6	♥ A 9 6	♥ K 10 8 4 2	♦ K 6 5	♦ Q 9	♣ K	♣ J 5 4 2
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<p>There's likely to be some lively bidding here, and the matchpoints will go to N/S pairs who double – and beat – an E/W contract. East's best call after a 1♣ opening is to double as he has a three-suited hand. South will raise clubs, probably to the three level and West has a slightly light responsive double. That gets E/W to 3♠ which can make double dummy but is extremely delicate in practice and likely to go off. However, many N/S pairs will bid on to 4♣ or 5♣ both of which are destined to make exactly ten tricks.</p>	<p>Another borderline game hand. Many pairs will stop in partscore, possible E/W auctions include 1♠ – 2♥ – 3♥ – Pass and 1♠ – 1NT – 2♠ – Pass. Ten tricks are easier in hearts with both suits breaking 3-2, but both major suit games need some luck: in 4♠ the tenth trick might come from the ♣Q ruffing down, so declarer needs to time the play very carefully to get at all his tricks. 4♥ is easier to play: set up spades before touching trumps, relying on the short spades being with the 3-card trump holding.</p>																

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<p>Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q 3 ♥ J 3 ♦ J 7 6 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ J 8</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 7 6 5 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 8 5 4 2</td> <td>♥ A Q 10 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A 9 8 2</td> <td>♦ K 10 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 4 3 2</td> <td>♣ J</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ A K 10 9 ♥ K 9 7 ♦ Q 5 ♣ A 10 8 5</p> </div>	♠ J 8	♠ 7 6 5 4 2	♥ 8 5 4 2	♥ A Q 10 6	♦ A 9 8 2	♦ K 10 4	♣ 4 3 2	♣ J	<p>Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 8 7 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K Q 7 4 ♣ Q J 9 6</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q J 5</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 9 6 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 10 3</td> <td>♥ J 8 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A 5 3</td> <td>♦ J 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A 10 3 2</td> <td>♣ 7 5 4</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ A 9 7 4 ♦ 10 9 6 2 ♣ K 8</p> </div>	♠ Q J 5	♠ 9 6 4 3	♥ K 10 3	♥ J 8 5 2	♦ A 5 3	♦ J 8	♣ A 10 3 2	♣ 7 5 4
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<p>A straightforward 3NT contract for N/S (1NT-3NT is the fastest auction playing strong NT, but 1♣ – 3♣ – 3NT also gets there). A passive heart lead looks normal; when East sets up the heart suit at once declarer will simply cash his nine top tricks and feel pleased when the ♠J falls giving him ten. In practice, East is likely to discard a few spades on the run of the clubs, so there will be no temptation for South to play for more tricks by taking the spade finesse. If East makes a take-out double of clubs West might be tempted to save in 4♥; he'll have to play it well to escape for -300.</p>	<p>A weak NT from West is likely to buy the contract. Whether this is a good result or not depends on how many tricks N/S make: anyone bidding 3NT will score +600 or +630 but it's not obvious to bid game after a 1♣ opening from West. 1♣ – P – P – dbl – P – 2NT – P – 3NT is the most likely auction to game. +180 for playing a NT partial and making ten tricks is worse than taking the same tricks in defence for +200. However, it's better than taking nine in defence, which is more likely after a potential ♣Q lead which blocks the suit.</p>																
<p>Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q J 6 2 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ 3 ♣ A J 5 4 3</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 9</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 7 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A K 9 4 2</td> <td>♥ 10 8 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 9 7</td> <td>♦ A K Q 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 9 8 7</td> <td>♣ 6 2</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ A K 8 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 10 6 5 4 ♣ K Q 10</p> </div>	♠ 10 9	♠ 7 5 4	♥ A K 9 4 2	♥ 10 8 5	♦ J 9 7	♦ A K Q 8 2	♣ 9 8 7	♣ 6 2	<p>Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ 8 7 5 3 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ J 8 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 4 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K J 10 3</td> <td>♥ 9 8 5 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 8</td> <td>♦ A 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A K Q 10 9</td> <td>♣ 7 5 4</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ K J 9 ♥ 6 ♦ K Q J 9 7 4 3 ♣ 6 3</p> </div>	♠ 10 4 2	♠ A Q 6	♥ K J 10 3	♥ 9 8 5 4 2	♦ 8	♦ A 2	♣ A K Q 10 9	♣ 7 5 4
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<p>The black suit double fit means that N/S are making 10 tricks in spades, while the red suit double fit for E/W gives them a 500 save in 5♥ or 5♦. The perfect fit is unlikely to come to light in the auction. However as a significant number of tables will be in partscore, an E/W save for 500 (par) will be a below average score. A 1♠ opening from South is likely to get raised directly to game by North. After 1♦ – 1♥ – dbl – 2♥ – 2♠ – Pass North may make a game try with 3♣ which South would be delighted to accept.</p>	<p>The auction will start 1♣ – Pass – 1♥ – 3/4♦. After a 4♦ overcall, West should stretch to raise to 4♥ and East should allow leeway and not try for slam. North will do well to find the save (easier to find if South chooses to overcall at the 4-level) looking at a balanced hand with all its values in hearts. After a 3♦ overcall, West could plausibly bid 3♥ or 4♥. This time, East will bid game anyway so the choice is unlikely to matter. Any N/S finding the 5♦ save will be rewarded even if South goes wrong in spades.</p>																

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<p>Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 4 ♥ A K 7 6 5 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 9 8 4</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 9 8 5 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 8</td> <td>♥ Q 10 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A K 8 7 3</td> <td>♦ J 10 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 6</td> <td>♣ A Q 10 7 5</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q J 6 2 ♥ J 4 3 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 3 2</p>	♠ A 9 8 5 3	♠ 10	♥ 8	♥ Q 10 9	♦ A K 8 7 3	♦ J 10 4 2	♣ J 6	♣ A Q 10 7 5	<p>Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q J 10 8 ♥ Q J 9 7 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 4</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 9 6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 6 3</td> <td>♥ 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A 7 5 4</td> <td>♦ K Q J 10 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2</td> <td>♣ A 9</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 5 4 ♥ A K 8 5 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 6 5</p>	♠ 3	♠ K 9 6 2	♥ 6 3	♥ 10	♦ A 7 5 4	♦ K Q J 10 8 6	♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2	♣ A 9
♠ A 9 8 5 3	♠ 10																
♥ 8	♥ Q 10 9																
♦ A K 8 7 3	♦ J 10 4 2																
♣ J 6	♣ A Q 10 7 5																
♠ 3	♠ K 9 6 2																
♥ 6 3	♥ 10																
♦ A 7 5 4	♦ K Q J 10 8 6																
♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2	♣ A 9																
<p>There will be many different auctions on this deal. E/W can even make 6♦ with the ♦Q dropping and the club finesse right, but a partscore is more likely. At love all, N/S are unlikely to give E/W a free ride: North may pass is first seat, but South should find an opening in third seat – either 1♠ or 2♠ depending on style. If N/S find their heart fit and South leads a heart against 3NT by East, the best play is for North to win and play a low one back: that has a great chance of cashing the first five tricks.</p>	<p>Another cheap 5♦ save, this time for E/W against N/S's 4♥ contract. After the auction starts 1♦ – 1♥, West has a good hand for a 'fit jump' – 3♣ showing both a long club suit and diamond support. North has a raise to game (either 4♣ or 4♥) and East should have enough information to save in 5♦. The best that N/S can do is to double this, but quite a few pairs will go on to 5♥: that can be the right long term strategy if you estimate that 5♦ will be cheap and not everyone will bid it.</p>																
<p>Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K ♥ K J 10 4 3 ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ A Q J 10</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 9 7 5 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 10 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 8 5 2</td> <td>♥ A 9 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 8 7</td> <td>♦ A 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 7 6</td> <td>♣ 8 5 4 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 8 6 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K Q J 6 4 2 ♣ 9 2</p>	♠ Q 9 7 5 3	♠ A 10 4 2	♥ 8 5 2	♥ A 9 6	♦ 8 7	♦ A 10	♣ K 7 6	♣ 8 5 4 3	<p>Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 4 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ A K J 10 7 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 8 7</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 6 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A 10</td> <td>♥ K 9 8 7 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 7 4</td> <td>♦ J 10 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 9 6 5 3</td> <td>♣ 4</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 9 5 2 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ Q 9 5 3 ♣ 8</p>	♠ K 8 7	♠ Q 6 3	♥ A 10	♥ K 9 8 7 6 4	♦ K 7 4	♦ J 10 2	♣ Q 9 6 5 3	♣ 4
♠ Q 9 7 5 3	♠ A 10 4 2																
♥ 8 5 2	♥ A 9 6																
♦ 8 7	♦ A 10																
♣ K 7 6	♣ 8 5 4 3																
♠ K 8 7	♠ Q 6 3																
♥ A 10	♥ K 9 8 7 6 4																
♦ K 7 4	♦ J 10 2																
♣ Q 9 6 5 3	♣ 4																
<p>N/S should finish in diamonds, either via 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3♦ – Pass, or 1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2/3♦. This time, with diamonds 2-2 and hearts 3-3 any pair who play in hearts will be rewarded with a good board as East is unlikely to find the winning ♠A lead which stops 10 tricks by forcing North. 3♦ makes 10 tricks easily; +130 for NS will be the most common result. If East finds an off-shape take-out double of 1♥, West should compete to 3♠. Now passing will get N/S a bad result so North has to choose between double (+300 this time) and 4♦ (the same +130).</p>	<p>The East hand qualifies as 6-9 points with six hearts, but it is not really a weak two vulnerable against not; the heart suit is ropery and the unsupported queen and jack outside are not great cards. On this hand a weak 2♥ opening may push N/S into a thin makeable game (2♥ – P – P – 3♣ – P – 3NT). The play in 3NT is interesting. If East plays ♠Q on the first round, South will have no fast entry to hand, but can recover by endplaying West. Otherwise, 3♣ will probably sneak home while 2♥ is likely to be one off which is better for E/W as it is only -100.</p>																

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<p>Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>♠ 7 6 5 3 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ K J 7 ♣ A 10 7</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q J 7 5 4</td> <td>♥ K 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A 4 3</td> <td>♦ 6 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q J 3 2</td> <td>♣ K 9 8 5</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ A Q 10 8 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ 6 4</p> </div>	♠ 2	♠ K J 9 4	♥ Q J 7 5 4	♥ K 10	♦ A 4 3	♦ 6 5 2	♣ Q J 3 2	♣ K 9 8 5	<p>Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ A Q 7 5 3 ♦ 8 6 5 3 ♣ A J</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q 9 7</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K J 9 6</td> <td>♥ 10 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 4 2</td> <td>♦ K Q</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 9 4</td> <td>♣ 10 7 6 5 3 2</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ K J 10 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A J 10 9 7 ♣ Q 8</p> </div>	♠ A Q 9 7	♠ 6 4	♥ K J 9 6	♥ 10 8 2	♦ 4 2	♦ K Q	♣ K 9 4	♣ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♠ 2	♠ K J 9 4																
♥ Q J 7 5 4	♥ K 10																
♦ A 4 3	♦ 6 5 2																
♣ Q J 3 2	♣ K 9 8 5																
♠ A Q 9 7	♠ 6 4																
♥ K J 9 6	♥ 10 8 2																
♦ 4 2	♦ K Q																
♣ K 9 4	♣ 10 7 6 5 3 2																
<p>North should open the bidding in third seat NV On a club lead against 1NT-all pass, declarer needs take the first round to avoid a painful heart switch: this is not obvious as the ♣5 could be from a 5 or 6 card suit. West however can see the 5 is partner's lowest card, which should make it easier for him to switch if declarer ducks. West may protect 1NT with 2♥; any N/S pairs who defeat this contract should be congratulated. In spite of the poor break, a 2♠ contract (reached after a 1♣ or 1♠ opening from North) can be made as long as declarer does not cash ♠A early.</p>	<p>A dangerous hand with the side defending likely to do best. If West opens a weak NT, even if North restrains himself from bidding (game all is the worst time to compete) then South will not be able to keep quiet whether or not East removes to 3♣. South will also come into the auction after 1♥ – P – 1NT, 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♣ or 1♣ – 1♥ – 3♣. A take-out double works out better than unilateral spade bids. N/S can make a diamond partscore but would do better to defend 3♣ if that is an option as the defensive heart ruff beats it by two (+200 even if nobody doubles).</p>																
<p>Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>♠ 7 3 ♥ 10 7 5 4 ♦ J 10 8 7 2 ♣ 7 5</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 9</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q J 8 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 6</td> <td>♥ A Q J 9 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A Q 6</td> <td>♦ 5 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 10 9 8 6 4</td> <td>♣ Q</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ A 10 6 5 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ K 9 ♣ A K 3 2</p> </div>	♠ K 9	♠ Q J 8 4	♥ K 6	♥ A Q J 9 2	♦ A Q 6	♦ 5 4 3	♣ J 10 9 8 6 4	♣ Q	<p>Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>♠ 4 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ A Q J 8 4 3</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 6 5 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 9 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A K 9 7 5 3</td> <td>♥ 10 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q 9 4</td> <td>♦ K 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ —</td> <td>♣ K 9 5</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>♠ Q 10 8 7 ♥ 8 ♦ A J 10 6 ♣ 10 7 6 2</p> </div>	♠ A 6 5 3	♠ K J 9 2	♥ A K 9 7 5 3	♥ 10 4 2	♦ Q 9 4	♦ K 8 2	♣ —	♣ K 9 5
♠ K 9	♠ Q J 8 4																
♥ K 6	♥ A Q J 9 2																
♦ A Q 6	♦ 5 4 3																
♣ J 10 9 8 6 4	♣ Q																
♠ A 6 5 3	♠ K J 9 2																
♥ A K 9 7 5 3	♥ 10 4 2																
♦ Q 9 4	♦ K 8 2																
♣ —	♣ K 9 5																
<p>West has a difficult call after a 1♠ opening from South. He does not want a club lead and game all is the worst vulnerability to compete, but he has so many high cards that passing may miss a game. This time a 2♣ overcall should get to 3NT (whether East chooses to respond 2♥, 2NT or 3NT) which makes 10 tricks by setting the clubs up. If West passes, game is still easy to reach if North passes the opening, but a super-aggressive 1NT response may garner a lot of matchpoints if E/W miss game as a consequence.</p>	<p>E/W are likely to get to a decent 4♥ or 4♠ contract, but with the nasty lie of the cards they are both destined to go off on normal play. If the auction starts 1♥ – 2♣ – dbl (negative), South has a difficult call: N/S could be making a lot of tricks in clubs, but his major suit holdings argue for defence. A 4♣ (or 3♦ fit) bid is probably sufficient, and it looks normal for West to bid 4♠ over this. Any N/S pair who choose to save in 5♣ doubled will find that -300 is a 'phantom' sacrifice and hence a poor result.</p>																

## Bill Hughes Simultaneous Pairs

<p>Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 5 ♥ K J 4 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A Q 7 3 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 9 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 6 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 9</td> <td>♥ 10 8 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 10 9</td> <td>♦ A J 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 10 9 8 6 5</td> <td>♣ —</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 8 7 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ Q 7 5 4 ♣ K J 4</p>	♠ Q 9 3	♠ K J 6 4 2	♥ Q 9	♥ 10 8 7 5	♦ K 10 9	♦ A J 8 6	♣ 10 9 8 6 5	♣ —	<p>Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 2 ♥ A K 10 4 2 ♦ Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ 9</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q J 8</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 6 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 7</td> <td>♥ 9 8 6 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 10 6 4</td> <td>♦ J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 8 7</td> <td>♣ A K Q 10 4</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 9 7 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ 6 5 3 2</p>	♠ A Q J 8	♠ 10 6 3	♥ Q 7	♥ 9 8 6 3	♦ K 10 6 4	♦ J	♣ J 8 7	♣ A K Q 10 4
♠ Q 9 3	♠ K J 6 4 2																
♥ Q 9	♥ 10 8 7 5																
♦ K 10 9	♦ A J 8 6																
♣ 10 9 8 6 5	♣ —																
♠ A Q J 8	♠ 10 6 3																
♥ Q 7	♥ 9 8 6 3																
♦ K 10 6 4	♦ J																
♣ J 8 7	♣ A K Q 10 4																
<p>The North hand is one that could plausibly be opened 1NT whatever the range, partly for the pre-emptive effect. A strong NT will be raised to game by South (possibly after intervention by East) and North will be disappointed to find that 3NT is off with clubs 5-0. The auction is more awkward after a 1♣ opening and a 1♠ overcall, especially for those playing 5-card majors. If 1♣ was natural, it's best to raise clubs. West can raise to 2♠; N/S may defend 2♠ making which is even worse than bidding game and going off.</p>	<p>Double-dummy 3NT makes for E/W, but they are unlikely to play in NT. If West opens 1NT in third seat, North will show a red two-suiter in some way and East will not want to defend with such a good suit to bid. Similarly if the auction starts P – P – 1♦ – 1♥, East can bid 2♣ happily as a passed hand, knowing that partner can pass without any extra values. If North competes further 3♦ is likely to go off with the poor trump break, but West may need to double it for +200 to beat the E/W pairs making a partscore.</p>																
<p>Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ A K 8 2 ♣ 10 6 3 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K J 10 8 6</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 9 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K J 10</td> <td>♥ Q 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 9 6 4</td> <td>♦ Q 10 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A 8</td> <td>♣ Q J 9 7</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K 5 4</p>	♠ K J 10 8 6	♠ A 9 5	♥ K J 10	♥ Q 7 5	♦ 9 6 4	♦ Q 10 3	♣ A 8	♣ Q J 9 7	<p>Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 7 6 5 ♥ A J 7 6 5 ♦ 8 ♣ K 7 2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 4</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 10 9 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 10 9 4 2</td> <td>♥ —</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J 4 3</td> <td>♦ A Q 10 9 6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A 4 3</td> <td>♣ Q 9</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ J 10 8 6 5</p>	♠ Q 4	♠ K 10 9 8 2	♥ Q 10 9 4 2	♥ —	♦ J 4 3	♦ A Q 10 9 6 2	♣ A 4 3	♣ Q 9
♠ K J 10 8 6	♠ A 9 5																
♥ K J 10	♥ Q 7 5																
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♦ J 4 3	♦ A Q 10 9 6 2																
♣ A 4 3	♣ Q 9																
<p>Only a real point-counter claiming to 'open all 11s' would call the East hand an opening bid, particularly in second seat, That leaves West to open 1♠ or 1NT in fourth seat and East again has to show restraint not to get E/W too high in theory. Any E/W pairs playing Drury will be pleased to stop in 2♠ – until they find out that all of the N/S cards are so well placed that game can be made. 4333 with all those queens, East does better to invite in NT than in spades; on this occasion an ambitious 3NT is very likely to make (other than on a low diamond lead from North).</p>	<p>East has a normal 1♦ opening, but might choose to call it a 5-5 and open 1♠ in order to get the master suit bid quickly. After an auction starting 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠, West is close between simple preference to 2♦ (which might end the auction) or an optimistic 3♦ bid which is likely to tempt East into bidding on. Playing in diamonds on a club lead, East in danger of being held to 9 tricks if he ducks the lead to North's king and a trump comes back. The choice of play on the opening lead may depend on how likely it is considered South has led away from the ♣K.</p>																

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<p>Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 6 3 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ A J 9 5 2 ♣ 6 5</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K Q 9 8</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 10 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 10 8 6 5</td> <td>♥ Q 9 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 4</td> <td>♦ 10 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A K 7 4</td> <td>♣ J 10 9 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 5 ♥ A K 4 ♦ K Q 7 3 ♣ Q 8 3</p>	♠ K Q 9 8	♠ 10 4 2	♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ Q 9 2	♦ 4	♦ 10 8 6	♣ A K 7 4	♣ J 10 9 2	<p>Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 9 4 ♥ A K 8 ♦ A Q 5 4 2 ♣ 7 4</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ K 8 5 3</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 9 3 2</td> <td>♥ 7 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 9 3</td> <td>♦ K 10 8 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 10 6 2</td> <td>♣ A K 8 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 7 6 ♥ Q J 10 5 4 ♦ J 6 ♣ J 9 5</p>	♠ K 8 5 3	♠ A Q 2	♥ 9 3 2	♥ 7 6	♦ 9 3	♦ K 10 8 7	♣ Q 10 6 2	♣ A K 8 3
♠ K Q 9 8	♠ 10 4 2																
♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ Q 9 2																
♦ 4	♦ 10 8 6																
♣ A K 7 4	♣ J 10 9 2																
♠ K 8 5 3	♠ A Q 2																
♥ 9 3 2	♥ 7 6																
♦ 9 3	♦ K 10 8 7																
♣ Q 10 6 2	♣ A K 8 3																
<p>South will end up as declarer in 3NT. This only appears to have eight tricks, but West is in trouble on the run of the diamonds. If the auction starts 1♦ dbl then declarer will know West has all the high cards. He will also know this if the defence starts with a top club, then a top spade (ducked) and a heart switch. Declarer comes down to AJ of spades and Qx of clubs; if West is also 2-2 in the blacks then ace and another spade endplays him while if he comes down to a singleton in one of the black suits, declarer plays that suit next.</p>	<p>If N/S play a weak NT opening, the auction might start P – 1NT – dbl – 2♥ – P – P – ? It's best to play double here as take-out by East. That gets E/W to a 4-3 spade fit which plays very well – although defending 2♥ rates to be +200 if E/W can find a double and pass. A 1♦ opening by contrast will lead to a 1NT overcall from East who will play there and score +90 on a heart lead (+120 is possible on ♦J lead unless North wins and switches to hearts) – a worse result than either of the possibilities after a 1NT opening from North.</p>																
<p>There was no choice of hands, just a straight deal. The commentary is by Jeffrey Allerton and Frances Hinden.</p> <p>Holder: Marilyn Warren &amp; George Burgoyne (Pinner Bridge Club, Middlesex, England)</p> <p>Organisation by David Stevenson David Stevenson 63 Slingsby Drive WIRRAL CH49 0TY England UK</p> <p>Email: hughes@blakjak.org Web site: www.blakjak.org Telephone: 0151 677 7412 +44 not 0 Mobile: 07778 409 955 outside Fax: 0872 115 2325 UK Skype: bluejak666</p>	<p>Scoring by ECats scoring system developed by Anna Gudge.</p> <p>To see your scores look at the ECats website at <a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">http://www.ecatsbridge.com</a> and go to the Sims section. They will be updated as more scores come in. Full details including frequencies will appear from Saturday night onwards.</p> <p>Anna Gudge Voy STROMNESS KW16 3HX Scotland UK</p> <p>Email: anna@ecats.co.uk Web site: www.ecatsbridge.com Telephone: 01787 881 920</p>																