

TRIAL SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

27th February 2012

Welcome to the second test event for the English Bridge Union's new Simultaneous Pairs system.

As I'm sure you're aware, the English Bridge Union will be taking over the running of its own Sim Pairs events with effect from April 2012. It will also be running the 'British Sim Pairs' on behalf of all the Home Unions. The purpose of today's event was to test out procedures and software so that we are ready for April. Our first trial was generally a success, but there were still one or two issues that needed ironing out. We hope that this event will go smoothly, but please be patient if there are any issues! We welcome any constructive feedback.

Just as for the first trial, we tried something a little different for the commentary booklet: Rather than having a professional telling you only what **should** have happened on each board, a group of us actually went ahead and played the hands, and we've told you what **actually** happened. There are some good bids and leads, but we haven't hidden from you the terrible ones, or the messes that we got into! Of course, we have offered our own 'expert analysis' as well. We hope you find it entertaining – we certainly enjoyed playing the hands!

Dramatis Personae:

Gail Nancarrow (Accounts Manager). The baby of our group in terms of bridge, Gail learned to play only a few years ago through the 'Bridge for All' scheme, and her system is based on 'Standard English' – four card majors and a Weak No Trump – with Weak Twos in three suits. She is now a regular on online site BridgeClubLive, but seldom plays face-to-face bridge.

Michael Clark (IT and website). The baby of our group in terms of age. Nevertheless Michael is the most experienced tournament player on the team, which really just means that his mistakes should be ridiculed more heavily than everyone else's! His preferred system is MOSCITO, but nobody else was prepared to play that with him.

Ian Mitchell (IT and Master Points). Ian is well known to tournament players as a director and scorer and has also been known to hold a hand of cards from time to time. He has also taught bridge, and is involved in the administration of a bridge club aimed at beginners graduating from their first bridge classes.

Gill Pain (Tournaments). Gill has played bridge the longest, since she was 17, but only plays bridge for fun lacking the 'killer instinct'. After all chocolate is not at stake! She can often be seen at EBU events doing the scoring and tidying up after the TDs.

We sat the same way throughout: Gail & Michael, North & South respectively, playing a fairly basic form of 'Standard English'. Gill & Ian, East & West respectively, played 5-card majors and a strong No Trump.

<div><div><div>♠J97653</div><div>♥K9</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣KQ54</div></div><div><div>♠Q10</div><div>♥8765</div><div>♦97532</div><div>♣97</div></div><div><div>♠K842</div><div>♥1032</div><div>♦KJ10</div><div>♣1062</div></div></div> <div><div>♠A</div><div>♥AQJ4</div><div>♦Q864</div><div>♣AJ83</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>18</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		13	7	2	18	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	7	3	6	5	4		S	7	3	6	5	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 4♠ by N</div> <div>Lead: ♦J</div> <div>Result: =</div> <div>N/S Score: +420</div> <p>When Gail showed club support, Michael looked for the slam, but Gail wasn't interested. And after she chose to stress the length of her spades, Michael settled for what he hoped might be the best match-point game. But a wrong guess in the trump suit led to +420, which will score poorly.</p> <p>Playing in clubs, there are 10 top tricks, and only two extra ruffs are needed to make the small slam. It's too hard to manage entries for a third ruff, or to establish the spade suit. But the ♦K comes down in three, so the 13th trick falls into South's lap.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<div><div><div>♠ J75</div><div>♥ J7</div><div>♦ 8653</div><div>♣ KQJ6</div></div><div><div>♠ A10632</div><div>♥ Q</div><div>♦ K10974</div><div>♣ 105</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ8</div><div>♥ 8653</div><div>♦ QJ</div><div>♣ A943</div></div><div><div>♠ 94</div><div>♥ AK10942</div><div>♦ A2</div><div>♣ 872</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8		9	12	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	-	1		S	1	-	3	-	1		E	-	2	-	4	-		W	-	2	-	4	-		<div><div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div><div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr></table>All Pass</div><div><div>Contract: 4♠ by W</div><div>Lead: ♥J</div><div>Result: =</div><div>N/S Score: -790 (and a round of beer)</div></div></div> <div><p>Some Wests will open with a two-suited 2♠, or even a natural weak two. But most auctions will start with a weak No Trump from East. South will compete, but the part-score battle should be won by West's spades.</p><p>Gill didn't like the quality of her flat 12-count. Michael could now have passed for a good score, but has a clear opening bid despite the short spade suit.</p><p>Ian & Gill both decided to compensate for their previous underbidding, and Michael's decision to double is surely correct in principle. Unlucky on this hand!</p><p>With no nasty surprises in either spades or diamonds, 10 tricks rolled in, and Ian had the luxury of being able to ensure that he won the last trick with the ♦7.</p></div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	Dbl				
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<div><div><div>♠ Q9</div><div>♥ 6542</div><div>♦ 103</div><div>♣ K10765</div></div><div><div>♠ J8742</div><div>♥ AQJ</div><div>♦ A982</div><div>♣ A</div></div><div><div>♠ A105</div><div>♥ K103</div><div>♦ Q65</div><div>♣ Q843</div></div><div><div>♠ K63</div><div>♥ 987</div><div>♦ KJ74</div><div>♣ J92</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5		16	11	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	3	3	4	4		W	1	3	3	4	4		<div><div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div><div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div><div><div>Contract: 4♠ by W</div><div>Lead: ♣6</div><div>Result: =</div><div>N/S Score: -420</div></div></div> <div><p>As the cards lie, it's hard to see how declarer can avoid making 10 tricks in 4♠: one spade loser and two diamonds, however you play the suits. At the table, after an initial club lead, Michael returned a club when in with the ♠K. Ian discarded a diamond on this, and later another diamond on the ♣Q, thus making the same number of tricks, but in a slightly more secure way.</p><p>With no ruffing values, some Easts might try 3NT, hoping that the same number of tricks are available as in 4♠. Indeed there are in theory, but there are more opportunities for wrong decisions!</p></div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<div><div><div>♠ K104</div><div>♥ KQJ63</div><div>♦ AK7</div><div>♣ 82</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ76</div><div>♥ 75</div><div>♦ 8653</div><div>♣ A4</div></div><div><div>♠ 532</div><div>♥ A8</div><div>♦ J10942</div><div>♣ 653</div></div><div><div>♠ 98</div><div>♥ 10942</div><div>♦ Q</div><div>♣ KQJ1097</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		16		11	5	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	4	-	1		S	4	-	4	-	1		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>4♥</td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 4♥ by N</div> <div>Lead: ♠3</div> <div>Result: =</div> <div>N/S Score: +620</div> <div>All Pass</div> <div>Over West's 1♠ opener, North's 2♥ overcall might be a slight understatement, but doubling then bidding hearts would be a gross overstatement. 1NT is a possibility, but there is a high risk of losing the heart fit. Fortunately, whichever you choose, South will not pass, and you should find the top spot of 4♥.</div> <div>There's nothing to the play. The defence have just the three aces to cash, and they should recognise that they have to do so before it's too late. So despite the possible variety of auctions, this should be pretty close to a flat board.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥								
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<div><div><div>♠ AKQ84</div><div>♥ 105</div><div>♦ AKQ8</div><div>♣ KQ</div></div><div><div>♠ 9</div><div>♥ J872</div><div>♦ J1096</div><div>♣ 9872</div></div><div><div>♠ J532</div><div>♥ AK9</div><div>♦ 432</div><div>♣ A53</div></div><div><div>♠ 1076</div><div>♥ Q643</div><div>♦ 75</div><div>♣ J1064</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>23</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		23		2	12	3		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	3	2	3	3		S	2	3	2	3	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 4♠ by N</div> <div>Lead: ♥A</div> <div>Result: -1</div> <div>N/S Score: -50</div> <div>All Pass</div> <div>This will be a common auction to what ought to be the best contract. But 4♠ is unlucky on this occasion. The spade break means that Gill has a natural trump trick in addition to three outside winners. North might be tempted to re-bid 2NT to show a balanced 23-24, despite the two doubletons. This won't stop South pushing to game, and if you play 5-card Stayman, you'll land in the same spot.</div> <div>In 3NT, in theory declarer has 3 clubs, 3 diamonds & 3 spades, but accessing the established club suit might be a problem. Declarer will surely try for the spades to split rather than leading a small spade to the ♠10. But he might yet prevail, as East will probably be end-played into leading a club or heart to dummy's winners.</div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠								
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<div><div><div>♠ J74</div><div>♥ A10</div><div>♦ J10864</div><div>♣ 1098</div></div><div><div>♠ 1032</div><div>♥ 43</div><div>♦ AK72</div><div>♣ AJ64</div></div><div><div>♠ AKQ</div><div>♥ KQJ9876</div><div>♦ -</div><div>♣ KQ3</div></div><div><div>♠ 9865</div><div>♥ 52</div><div>♦ Q953</div><div>♣ 752</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		6		12	20	2		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	6	3	6	4	6		W	6	3	6	4	6		<div>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 6♥ by E</div> <div>Lead: ♦3</div> <div>Result: =</div> <div>N/S Score: -1430</div> <div>Some tough decisions in this auction, but eventually East-West ought to reach the small slam, for which the play presents no problems. 6NT is the top match point spot, but it's hard for East to accept that the hand does not belong in hearts. Gill & Ian play the 2♦ response as a relay, not denying values. Blackwood is not normally a great idea when you hold a void, but Gill & Ian play Roman (not Key Card) Blackwood, in which they specify which two aces they hold. Thus 5♠ showed two aces of the same rank. Had Ian shown two 'odd' aces (♠ & ♦, or ♥ & ♣), this would have been a smart way to reach the Grand. Even with a 'one ace' reply, the Small Slam would have been odds on.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass
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<div><div><div><div>♠ 92</div><div>♥ J832</div><div>♦ KQJ73</div><div>♣ A4</div></div><div><div>♠ AKJ10</div><div>♥ Q10</div><div>♦ 9542</div><div>♣ K93</div></div></div><div><div>♠ Q8763</div><div>♥ 976</div><div>♦ 8</div><div>♣ J865</div></div><div><div>♠ 54</div><div>♥ AK54</div><div>♦ A106</div><div>♣ Q1072</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><td></td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	4	4	-	2		S	1	4	4	-	2		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<div><div>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div><div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table></div><div><div>Contract: 3NT by S</div><div>Lead: ♠ K</div><div>Result: +2</div><div>N/S Score: +660</div></div><div><p>4♥ should be the most common contract, reached via Stayman. There is no finesse position in trumps, so declarer will just cash ♥A K, luckily felling the Q. I suspect there will also be some making 11 tricks, with West switching to a club after cashing ♠AK.</p><p>Against 3NT, Ian also switched to a club after cashing just one spade. Gill had signalled an odd number of spades, which Ian assumed to be three!</p><p>Michael might have breathed a huge sigh of relief that the defence failed to cash 5 spade tricks, but there’s work to do yet: He doesn’t know that the ♥Q is dropping, so (apparently) has only eight top tricks. He therefore let the club run to the Q. Now the fortunate heart position gives him 11 tricks and a top score.</p></div></div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p>♠ QJ764 ♥ 5 ♦ 875 ♣ A843</p> <p>♠ 1082 ♠ - ♥ AQJ843 ♥ 109762 ♦ KJ42 ♦ AQ106 ♣ - ♣ K965</p> <p>♠ AK953 ♥ K ♦ 93 ♣ QJ1072</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			7			11	9		13			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	1	-		S	1	-	-	1	-		E	-	6	7	-	1		W	-	6	7	-	1		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>5♥</td><td>5♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Contract: 5♠ by S Lead: ♥A Result: -2 N/S Score: -200</p> <p>Another slam in hearts, but harder to find. Gail should have bid more than 2♠ at her first turn to put extra pressure on East-West, but she caught up at her next turn. Ian might guess that Gill holds a spade void when North-South compete so strongly, but it is a guess, and nor does he know about the ♦A. Nevertheless perhaps he should have bid 6♥ regardless – if it doesn't make, there's a good chance that it turns out to be a good sacrifice!</p> <p>Perfect defence holds 5♠ to seven tricks. But when West leads a diamond to East's Ace, should East know to switch to a club? And can West then underlead his ♦K for another ruff? At the table the defence took only four tricks, undoubled, for a very good score for North-South.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠ AJ542 ♥ K3 ♦ J92 ♣ K106</p> <p>♠ 3 ♠ K10987 ♥ AQJ97542 ♥ 6 ♦ AKQ ♦ 75 ♣ 2 ♣ AQJ74</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ 108 ♦ 108643 ♣ 9853</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			12			16	10		2			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	2	5	3	4		W	3	2	5	3	4		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Contract: 6♥ by W Lead: ♠A Result: -1 N/S Score: +50</p> <p>Another slam hand? No, not this time!</p> <p>Ian should have passed Gill's penalty double of Gail's 2♠. Had she bid it on the previous round, it would have been a tougher decision for him.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Ian decided that the slam possibility was a better option than taking a low-level penalty. When Gill showed one Ace, he gambled that there would be some help in the trump suit.</p> <p>Roman Key Card Blackwood would have worked well on this occasion – knowledge that Gill only held one of the three important cards would have helped him to avoid this poor slam.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠	Dbl	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ J5 ♥ Q53 ♦ KQ62 ♣ J753</p> <p>♠ AKQ9642 ♠ 1083 ♥ K87 ♥ A1042 ♦ A ♦ J983 ♣ 84 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ J96 ♦ 10754 ♣ A10962</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			9			16	10		5			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	-	-	-		S	1	1	-	-	-		E	-	-	4	5	4		W	-	-	4	5	4		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Contract: 4♠ by W Lead: ♦2 Result: +2 N/S Score: +480</p> <p>And again, just short of another East-West slam. Both Gill & Ian took conservative views of their hands, but even those that think that the West hand is worthy of an Acol 'Strong Two' should avoid the slam. East simply does not have the extra tricks required.</p> <p>Unless the defence touch the heart suit first, it looks as if 11 tricks are there and no more. However, Ian demonstrated why you should never give up. Having drawn two rounds of spades, he led a third round to dummy's 10. Gail carelessly discarded a diamond (and Michael had done so on the previous round). Thus Ian was able to ruff two rounds of diamonds, and had sufficient entries to cash the last one for a heart discard.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass										
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<div><div><div><div><div><div>♠J92</div><div>♥Q753</div><div>♦875</div><div>♣A52</div></div></div><div><div>♠85</div><div>♥A8</div><div>♦K10</div><div>♣K1098643</div></div></div><div><div><div>♠A4</div><div>♥J102</div><div>♦Q6432</div><div>♣QJ7</div></div><div><div>♠KQ10763</div><div>♥K964</div><div>♦AJ9</div><div>♣-</div></div></div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		7		10	10	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	3	-		S	-	-	3	3	-		E	3	-	-	-	-		W	3	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div><div>1♠</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>2♣</div><div>2♠</div><div>3♣</div><div>4♠</div></div><div><div>5♣</div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div><div>Dbl</div></div><div><div>All Pass</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div></div><div><div>Contract: 5♣^x by W</div><div>Lead: ♠2</div><div>Result: -2</div><div>N/S Score: +300</div></div><div>5♣ would be a good sacrifice if 4♠ is making, but 4♠ will be tight.</div><div>In 4♠, the defence can force the contract down by leading ♦K. East can give partner a ruff when in with the trump ace, as long as West doesn't allow declarer a quick entry to dummy with a heart, allowing him to discard a diamond on the ♣A. But on the likely club lead, South might prevail if he can restrict the defence to one heart trick. This he does by assuming (hoping) that West started with ♥Ax: lead from hand towards the ♥Q, then duck a heart to West's bared Ace.</div><div>In 5♣^x, West has a loser in each suit. He can try a similar play in diamonds, hoping that South has Ax, but it doesn't work this time!</div></div>
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<div><div><div>♠ J5</div><div>♥ K8765</div><div>♦ KJ87</div><div>♣ K4</div></div><div><div>♠ Q73</div><div>♥ QJ102</div><div>♦ A92</div><div>♣ Q97</div></div><div><div>♠ 109864</div><div>♥ 9</div><div>♦ Q6543</div><div>♣ 32</div></div><div><div>♠ AK2</div><div>♥ A43</div><div>♦ 10</div><div>♣ AJ10865</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>16</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11	2	11	16	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	2	4	1	5		S	5	2	4	2	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 4♥ by N</div> <div>Lead: ♠10</div> <div>Result: -1</div> <div>N/S Score: -50</div> <p>Deep Finesse says that 3NT is the top spot here: 11 tricks if you play West for the ♣Q. Most would play the finesse the other way, but still take 10 tricks for a top score.</p> <p>However, I see no reason why North-South shouldn't reach 4♥ via an auction similar to the above.</p> <p>In hearts, the bad trump break should not threaten the contract. Declarer simply needs to establish the club suit, losing just two trumps and the ♦A. But Gail was greedy: she tried to run the spade lead round to the Jack, hoping for an extra trick. She failed to realise that even had this worked, there would be no actual gain.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass					
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<div><div><div>♠ 54</div><div>♥ 8</div><div>♦ J7</div><div>♣ KQJ109752</div></div><div><div>♠ A2</div><div>♥ KQ53</div><div>♦ AQ8532</div><div>♣ A</div></div><div><div>♠ 10973</div><div>♥ AJ106</div><div>♦ 10964</div><div>♣ 8</div></div><div><div>♠ KQJ86</div><div>♥ 9742</div><div>♦ K</div><div>♣ 643</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>9</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		7	5	19	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	-	-	-		S	3	-	-	-	-		E	-	6	6	2	6		W	-	6	6	2	6		<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 6♦ by W</div> <div>Lead: ♠9</div> <div>Result: =</div> <div>N/S Score: -1370</div> <p>Slams in ♦, ♥ or NT all require the ♦K to be picked up. 6NT is therefore 'all or nothing'. If the ♦K is right, you get a top; if not, seven down!</p> <p>As soon as Gill showed diamond support, Ian started sniffing the slam. Having found that no aces were missing, it was just a case of which slam. Not being sure whether Gill's heart raise was genuine, he 'offered the choice' by bidding 6♦. Gill, on the other hand, wasn't sure that Ian's 3♥ was a genuine suit.</p> <p>If North makes a more aggressive overcall, East-West will nevertheless compete, but will they still reach the slam?</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	3♣	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass		
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<div><div><div>♠ KJ</div><div>♥ 108</div><div>♦ AK3</div><div>♣ AJ7543</div></div><div><div>♠ 5432</div><div>♥ J4</div><div>♦ J8765</div><div>♣ K9</div></div><div><div>♠ Q1096</div><div>♥ 976</div><div>♦ 102</div><div>♣ Q862</div></div><div><div>♠ A87</div><div>♥ AKQ532</div><div>♦ Q94</div><div>♣ 10</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>15</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		16	4	5	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	4	7	3	6		S	4	4	7	3	6		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Contract: 6♥ by S</div> <div>Lead: ♦6</div> <div>Result: +1</div> <div>N/S Score: +1010</div> <p>When Gail showed a balanced 15-16, Michael was stuck. Slam was probable, though not certain, and maybe even a Grand Slam. But whatever scientific method they might be able to use, it probably wouldn't tell him what he needed to know! So he made what is affectionately known here as a 'Gill Pain Slam Try'. I'm sure that many bridge clubs have similar technical terms.</p> <p>This time the suit contract does score better than No Trumps, since there is an extra trick available by ruffing a spade in dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass											
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Epilogue

It is a common misconception that hands for Simultaneous Pairs events are in some way selected, or 'fixed' by computer to be made interesting.

We would like to reassure you that, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, it is EBU policy – indeed it is in accordance with the Laws of Bridge, to which the EBU is bound to adhere – that all deals are entirely randomly dealt. Necessarily not all random sets will conform to a statistical 'norm'. Some sets will be wilder, and others more plain..

One source of statistics suggests that, on average, 10 hands in a set of 32 boards will be played in a part-score. On this occasion, our guinea pigs played in a part-score on only five occasions. In our trial in December, they played in a part-score on 14 occasions!