



The ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for BBC Children in Need Tuesday 11 November 2008

Dear Bridge Player

We are really grateful to you for coming and playing in this event for BBC Children in Need. It is a charity very close to our hearts and we hope that, with your help, we have managed to raise lots of lovely money for them! Last year you all raised over £55,000 ... and in total we have raised £283,752.86 - just a fantastic amount of money and it is all thanks to you!

You will notice that we have made the booklet (and the type size) smaller for these "CiN" events - this is because that way we can use less paper, less printing, less postage and thus make more money for Children in Need, so we hope you don't object too much ... you may need to wear your reading glasses though!

There are a lot of people to thank for their help on this one. The commentary for this set of hands was done by Mark Horton and we are very grateful to him as, in common with all the commentators over the five days, he did it free of charge.

Results will be at www.ecatsbridge.com as normal, of course. If you want to make an extra donation, please just email anna@ecats.co.uk and pledge the amount - we will add it in, and I will email you to tell you where to send the cheque! And please make sure that someone from your club emails us with the amount you have raised in total as soon as possible after the event.

Again ... thank you very much for supporting us. Book the dates for next year when I expect we will be doing it all over again!

With very best wishes

Anna & Mark

Anna Gudge & Mark Newton, ECatsBridge.com!

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The session starts with a routine game for N/S – and any pairs who press on to a slam will see it role home – as long as North is the declarer. After North opens 1♠ the classical response with the South hand (I am assuming East resists the temptation to bid 2♦) is 2♣. If North rebids 2♠ South jumps to 4♠, but if North prefers to bid 2♦ then a few South's might take a matchpoint shot at 3NT. That will score very well, unless West happens to lead a diamond.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

After 1♠ the modern way to respond with the West hand is 2NT (you might splinter, but a singleton ace is not ideal). If East rebids 3NT West might simply sign off with 4♠. Even if West makes a try with 4♣ it is difficult to see the partnership going beyond game. South can ensure two tricks for his side by leading a heart, or a spectacular king of diamonds. If E/W do get to 6♠ then North may decide to make a Lightner double.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

This may prove to be one of the less troublesome Boards of the event. After South opens 1♦ the simple way to deal with the North hand is to respond 1♥. South is worth a jump to 3♥, but North will decline the invitation. With trumps breaking 3-2 there is nothing complicated to the play and declarer will lose two spades, one diamond and one club. The only way to generate an overtrick is if West fails to take the ace of diamonds on the first round of the suit.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

If West opens 1♠ East will bid 2♦ and then have a decision to make over West's rebid of 2♠. 3♣ would be an overbid, so the choice lies between 2NT and pass. A singleton in partner's suit – even if it the king – argues for a pass, but East may fear a 5-1 fit and leave the safe harbour of 2♠ for the stormy waters of 2NT. On a heart lead declarer can make seven tricks only by going up with the king and attacking diamonds, overtaking the ♠K to take a second finesse.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Bidding a slam after the opponents have opened the bidding is never easy – can E/W manage it here? After (1♣)-1♦-(2♠) they will have a chance if West bids 2♠. Now over North's 3♣ East can bid 4♣, which will see West bid 4♦. After 4♥-4♠ East might bid 5♠, asking West for good trumps, an invitation West should probably accept, or simply jump to 6♠. In either case it will be a fine effort to reach a slam.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

After East passes South has a choice of opening bids. 1♠ and 2♠ will be popular choices, but I know a few players who would open a swashbuckling 4♠! There will be a few Multi 2♦ as well. Suppose South tries 2♠? West bids 3♥ and East will raise to game. North may be tempted to bid clubs at a high level, and if E/W decide to take a penalty they will have to stop declarer ruffing a heart in dummy to get a good score.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

If E/W start 1♦-1♠ then West is well short of the values for a reverse into 2♥ and a INT rebid should end the auction. That will leave North with an awkward lead. The diamond position is so favourable that only an initial club lead holds declarer to eight tricks. If North leads a low spade declarer wins with dummy's nine and advances the queen of diamonds. If South covers declarer will take ten tricks for a terrific score.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

If West opens 1♣ North may decide to overcall 1NT. Will East enter the fray with 2♠? If East goes quietly South has no reason to bid but West might venture 2♣. That might see North try 2♥ but in any event East now has a good case to join in the fun and bid 2♠. That is cold, so it will be up to South to save some points by bidding 3♥, a contract that will fail when East collects a club ruff.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Assuming North does nothing fancy then East has to choose between an Acol 2♠ – not a club that everyone has in the bag these days – or 2♣. With every suit controlled I prefer the latter approach. Given a free run it should be easy to reach a grand slam, but South will surely bid diamonds and North will jump to 5♦. Now East can bid 6♦ and West might just bid 7♥. Even over 6♥ East might bid 'one for the road'.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

After two passes I would open the West hand, preferably with a weak 2♦. That or a restrained 1♦ would give North the alternatives of double or 1♥. East will join in, perhaps with 1NT and South will bid 2♠ after a double but pass after an overcall. If West retreats to 2♦ North might double having overcalled and bid 2♥ having doubled. That way South will still get a chance to find the safe haven of 2♠.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

After 1♠ North's diamonds are so robust that I would relax my rule about having a six-card suit and overcall 2♦. East makes a negative double and if South raises to 3♦ the bidding may well get back to East, who will double again. If West passes, +100 may prove to be a poor score as game is possible in either black suit. Perhaps West should take the bull by the horns and jump to 5♣ over a second double, but this is not an easy deal.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

After 1♦ East has to respond INT and South's simplest action is to double as a take out of diamonds. Now, even if West bids 2♦ North is likely to mention his spades and if South invites game North will decline. If West bids 3♦ North might pass but will bid 3♣ if South comes again. N/S may be able to stop in 3♣ but it will be easy enough to get to game and the trouble with being in 4♠ is that repeated diamond leads set up a trump trick for East.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

When North opens 1♥ South faces a classic conundrum. Should he bid 2♥ or INT? A balanced hand argues for INT, but with spades and diamonds unguarded the useful trumps suggest otherwise. I would be inclined to raise on Tuesdays and bid INT on Wednesdays. In theory both contracts should be defeated, but there is a minuscule chance that the defenders might go wrong.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

After the bidding starts 1♥-Db1-1♠-Pass-2♦ North will have a decision to make. A quiet 2♥ will see South pass, and it will be a matter of how many overtricks declarer makes. However, if North jumps to 3♥, South may, despite the void in partners suit press on to game. West will start with a top club, and if he cashes three minor suit winners declarer will be left with the task of locating the queen of trumps. A top if you find it, a bottom if you don't.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

N/S have enough points to reach a slam, perhaps bidding 1♥-2♣-2NT-3♥-3NT-4NT-6NT but with neither player having a five-card suit declarer will face a difficult task. The heart suit offers a chance of four tricks, but the best line of cashing the king, planning to finesse against East, will lead to defeat. If declarer plays West for the queen of hearts the contract can be made via a heart/club squeeze against West.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

As the cards lie N/S might take ten tricks in either major, but will they bid game? After 1♦-1♥-2♦ North might bid any number of hearts between two and four. Suppose North bids a modest 2♥? When East bids 3♦ I think South is just about worth a game try double, which North should certainly accept. If the defenders start with two rounds of diamonds, forcing dummy to ruff, declarer must play on clubs – and get them right – to score ten tricks.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

A nasty deal for N/S, who will almost certainly get too high after the bidding starts 1♠-1NT, North continuing with an invitational 2NT or a more aggressive 3NT. On a heart lead declarer will win and might play a club to the queen hoping for an entry to play a diamond to the jack or try running the jack of diamonds. Neither line will offer any joy in 3NT, but playing on diamonds at once should result in eight tricks.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

After East opens 1NT I'm sure most South's will have a way of getting into the auction, perhaps via 2♣ to show hearts and another suit. North might simply jump to game or first use some science to discover that South's second suit is diamonds before going to 4♥. With both red suits behaving nicely it will not be difficult for declarer to record ten tricks.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

N/S have an obvious 3NT, reached via 1NT-3NT or a more disciplined 1NT-2NT-3NT. If West happens to lead a spade the defenders will take 4 tricks, but otherwise declarer can score 10 by taking the club finesse. Pairs who discover they have no spade stopper, perhaps after starting 1♣-1♦-1♥, will probably end up in 4♥, and they should emerge with +420.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Is there any chance that E/W will reach the almost laydown 6♦? After 1♠ if East finds a response of 2♦ West might just risk a splinter rebid of 4♣. Now a series of cue bids, 4♥-4♠-5♣ should see West jump to the slam. However, that does involve a number of marginal actions, so my guess is that bidding even 5♦ will be worth quite a lot of matchpoints.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

This looks a straightforward 3NT for E/W and unless North leads the king of spades declarer is likely to settle for 11 tricks. However, a few pairs may venture a slam, and provided West is declarer, which eliminates the possibility of a damaging spade lead, 12 tricks can be made. Declarer simply cashes winners (including a diamond finesse) and North must hold on to three spades. Then a low spade towards the jack does the trick.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Most pairs will play in 2NT and South will lead a club. With six tricks in the black suits declarer can use dummy's only entry, the jack of spades, to try a heart towards the king for a seventh trick. N/S can make 3♣, but it will be hard to get there. One route might be via a strong club from East with South entering the fray with a two-suited defence. Then North will have every reason to compete.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

After INT by South, West is sure to intervene, either with 2♥ or with a bid to show the majors. Even so, it should not be too difficult for N/S to reach 3NT. For example, over 2♥ North might use the Rubensohl convention, bidding 2NT as a transfer to clubs with at least invitational values. That would make it easy for South to bid 3NT. Any pairs who happen to bid 6♣ will go down if North is declarer and East leads a heart.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

After North opens INT South either transfers to hearts or uses Stayman. In the first case North may decide to break the transfer by jumping to 3♥, in the second North will respond 2♥. Either way South does not have enough to do more than bid game. Eleven tricks are the limit, although if North is declarer and East leads the king of diamonds declarer can duck, when a second diamond would concede a trick.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

When North opens INT East may enter with a bid to show spades and another suit. South might try the effect of a jump to 4♥ and when West goes on to 4♣ North may press on to 5♥. East is likely to double that. A diamond lead should produce +500, but West may well go on to 5♣, a contract that will probably make but contains a few pitfalls, especially if North decides to lead a trump.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

If South is able to open with an Acol 2♥ then N/S should get to 6♦. It should also be possible after 1♥-1NT-3♦ as long as North raises to 4♦. The bad breaks in both red suits mean declarer will have to play very carefully. On a spade lead a winning line is to win in hand and play two top hearts. West ruffs, but declarer will then be able to negotiate two heart ruffs. On a club lead that line also works, declarer making 12 tricks on a crossruff.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

The theoretical limit for E/W is 3♠, but will they stop there? Given a free run they might go 1NT-2♥*-2♣-2NT-3♠, but it will be more complicated if South opens the bidding. After 1♦ (or a weak 2♦)-Dbf, East will have to decide how many spades to bid. However, as it takes a black suit lead to guarantee the defeat of 4♣ bidding game may turn out well.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

This should be everyone's major suit game, one possible route being via 1NT-2♥*-2♣-3♥-4♥. On many occasions there would be a valuable discard on the fifth spade, but with a certain trump trick the defenders will have to drop a club trick if declarer is to score +450. Is there any way that could happen? If North leads the jack of spades suppose declarer wins with the ace and plays a heart to the nine. Now North has to cash out.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

In these days of lightweight openings North or South might start the ball rolling. A third in hand 1♣ from South will see North respond 1♥ and South rebid 1♠. How high should North raise? 3♣ looks about right, but taking nine tricks will require careful play. For example, on a heart lead declarer wins and plays a spade to the ace, but must then go after the club suit. If the first three players pass West should do the same.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

After 1♥-Pass-1♠ North might risk 2♣. That will encourage East, so if the bidding continues 2♥-3♣-3♥ he will go on to game. The best lead against 4♥ is a trump, when declarer will do well to take more than ten tricks. However, once South has supported clubs North might be tempted to take the paying sacrifice. If East goes on to 5♥, then South will need to find a trump lead to be in with a chance.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Facing an opening bid of 1♣ should North respond 1♠ or jump to 3♦? The former might lead to the unbeatable 3NT after South rebids 2♣ and North jumps to 3♦, while the latter might end the auction if South is put off by his lack of aces. Mind you, an aggressive East might come in with a double over 3♦. West will bid 3♥ and unless South ventures a double N/S will collect a very poor score.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

This may not appear to be the most exciting end to another Children in Need Simultaneous, but at matchpoints every trick is as vital as your magnificent contributions. If North declares 1NT after South has opened 1♠ then East will need to lead the jack of clubs to hold declarer to seven tricks. That looks easy enough on the surface, but you can bet your bottom dollar that there will be a few +120's on the traveller. See you next year!

Yes - it was a bit of a squeeze to get it all in, and then I had a bit of space left over, but at least I can tell you a bit about us!

ECatsBridge is owned by ECats Ltd., and is an independant organisation run by Anna Gudge and Mark Newton. You can find out a bit about us by going to the website at

www.ecatsbridge.com and clicking on the tab at the top where it says "About Us" ... we have a bit about each of us there - oh and something about the ECats cats too of course! And there is a link on the front page to Anna's blog as well which will give you additional information throughout the year so do keep coming back and checking - you never know what exciting events you might hear about that way!

We do a lot of work for the World Bridge Federation, some for the European Bridge League, some for the English Bridge Union, the Simultaneous Pairs for Bridge Great Britain, and various other Simultaneous Pairs for different organisations when required, including a number of Charity events.

We can organise Simultaneous Pairs large and small - some have only a few local clubs and it may be a lot less expensive than you think, so if you want to know more, do contact us.

We both love working in bridge. We do our best to make the website at www.ecatsbridge.com user friendly and informative, and the ECatsBridge Club enjoyable for its members.

If we can help you - let us know and we will do our best!