



# Warwickshire Charity Simultaneous Pairs – In aid of Warwickshire Air Ambulance

Tuesday 4 June 2019



To make the commentary simpler to write I have used he/him/his as unisex rather than constantly having to qualify it as he/she, him/her or his/hers. I also assume most will play a weak NT and 4 card majors.

1	J2
North	A52
None	QJT4
	AQ98
A9643	T75
9843	KT6
A8	9732
42	653
	KQ8
	QJ7
	K65
	KJT7

An easy one to start with. North should play 3NT after a simple 1NT-3NT. And it looks like 10 tricks is the limit, losing the 2 aces and the ♥K. Playing a strong NT South might play 3NT and on a ♠ lead he may be left with a decision whether to take the ♥ finesse or not. 11 tricks would be a top but if EW have ducked two ♠s then losing to the ♥K would mean 8 tricks! I don't expect many if any plus scores for EW and +460 for NS should be a top.

2	AJT92
East	AK4
NS	AKQ3
	7
KQ5	8743
863	T
T7	J985
JT643	KQ52
	6
	QJ9752
	642
	A98

A bit more excitement here. Those with a weak 2 in their armoury will open the South hand 2♥. Those playing Multi will open 2♦. North's ears will prick up if South opens and getting to 6♥ should be fairly easy, especially since they are vulnerable when weak 2 bids are a bit less frivolous! Some may even venture into grand slam territory. Minus those tools North has a choice between 2♣ and 1♠ and there is a case to be made for either – I would go for 2♣. Is South worth a positive? I would say yes – minimum but a good 6 card suit and an ace looks good enough. After this again slam should be easy. Anyone opening 1♠ will find it more difficult. 13 tricks roll in by ruffing 2 ♣s in dummy or by setting up ♠s with 2 ruffs.

3	AQ6
South	AQJT
EW	98
	KT87
K972	J543
98	K643
AKT752	J63
A	J2
	T8
	752
	Q4
	Q96543

There are those who open the South hand 3♣ (not me!) but normally West will open 1♦. North will double and East has the choice of 1♥ or Pass. South will bid 2♣ either way and West will repeat his ♦s. 3♣ from North will no doubt end proceedings and will make 9 tricks no doubt when the ♥ finesse loses. Any EW who push up to 3♦ will be rewarded with at least 9 tricks – 10 if they get the ♠ suit right. Neither side should really get above the 3 level but who knows! So, a battle between +110 NS and +110/130 EW.

4	9
West	KJ753
All	KT96
	T82
KQT84	A763
6	T92
QJ8	A53
KQ94	J65
	J52
	AQ84
	742
	A73

Yes, EW can make 11 tricks in ♠s but I don't think many will get to game. West will open 1♠ and should pass partner's raise to 2♠. If North feels brave, he may protect with a double; 3♥ is possible but less flexible than double. East might bid 3♠ and West just might push on to game. Or if East passes West can double and East might be tempted. So, one or two might get to 4♠ but most will stay in a part score. Plenty of +200 scores with a smattering of +650?

5	63
North	A864
NS	Q87
	AQ95
A84	JT92
Q2	973
9632	KJ5
JT73	642
	KQ75
	KJT5
	AT4
	K8

Another weak NT for North who will play 4♥ after Stayman from South. Not many Easts will lead anything but the ♠J. The normal play in trumps is to finesse through East since you can pick up ♥Q9xx in East but not in West. However, you really want to try to ruff two ♠s in hand which gives 10 tricks so trumps will wait until later. Finding the ♥Q lets you make 11 tricks and this should be a top but most will score +620 for an average. Anyone going off will score very badly!

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<u>6</u>	9863
East	KQT
EW	A943
	QJ
75	KQ2
9865	AJ74
K876	52
943	A872
	AJT4
	32
	QJT
	KT65

This time East will open 1NT and this should be passed out. West won't be happy since EW are vulnerable but has nowhere to go. South could lead the ♠J, ♦Q or ♣5 - there is something to be said for each of these and they all work well on the hand. Perfect defence will hold East to 3 tricks but some will get a 4<sup>th</sup> trick in ♥s while NS try to unscramble their tricks. If EW play a strong NT then NS might just get to 4♠ after South doubles East's 1♥. The great lie of the cards lets 4♠ make if played sensibly! So, +420 for NS will be top followed by +400. There will be variations which let EW out for a smaller loss of course but I can't see a plus for them anywhere.

<u>7</u>	432
South	J85
All	Q93
	T972
AKJ5	T87
AQT32	9764
A2	K8764
43	6
	Q96
	K
	JT5
	AKQJ85

EW must be getting frustrated getting such poor cards. Here West has a great hand but East has the usual rubbish and South even gets the first bid in with 1♣! West will double, East will contribute 1♦, South will try 2♣ and West will no doubt bid 2♥ which shows a strong hand. East in context has some good stuff – 4 trumps, a K and a ruffing value. So, 3♥ (4♥ for the ambitious) from him and West will push on to game. A ♣ and a trump are the only losers so +650 for EW. Of course, there will be those who won't bid as aggressively and will stay in a part score for +200. And what if South chooses to open a strong NT?...!

<u>8</u>	Q5
West	8753
None	QJ9
	A963
T432	AJ97
42	KQJT6
K87654	T
7	KJT
	K86
	A9
	A32
	Q8542

This one is tough to predict. Certainly, one possibility is for East to play 1♥ since neither South nor North has a good bid. I hate a 2♣ overcall but some will bid it and do well in a ♣ part score. Double from South is a better option if you are going to bid and again a ♣ contract looks likely. How EW get to a ♠ contract is hard to see but I suppose if NS bid then East could double 2♣ planning to pull 2♦ to 2♥ which West would then correct to 2♠. So, EW could score +80 or +110/140 or NS could get +110.

<u>9</u>	KQ5
North	73
EW	KJT8
	A543
T7643	A92
JT9	AKQ864
6	732
KQ76	T
	J8
	52
	AQ954
	J982

North will open 1NT and the spotlight falls on East. Double could be right with a reasonable expectation of 7 tricks in your own hand. But 4♥ just might be on and 1NT might be making, so it isn't clear whether to double or bid 2♥. In fact, double only gets +100 and a ♥ part score gets +140. 10 tricks in ♥s is possible but needs quite a bit of assistance from the defence to set up the ♣K for a ♠ discard and also not lead trumps to let you ruff two ♦s in dummy. There might be a rare +620 for EW and plenty of +140 scores. If NS can find their ♦ fit they can make 9 tricks so there could be a couple of plus scores in that column too.

<u>10</u>	753
East	64
All	K765
	T986
Q	JT986
JT9873	Q5
983	QJ4
AK2	J73
	AK42
	AK2
	AT2
	Q54

Here South will no doubt open 2NT (or an equivalent) and play there – the North hand isn't worth a raise but I'm sure a few will find themselves in game. West will look no further than the ♥J for a lead, East should insert the ♥Q and declarer has few places to look for tricks. It would be nice to finesse for the ♣J a couple of times but dummy is sadly lacking in entries. Ducking a ♦ hoping for a 3-3 split looks the only hope of an extra trick and it pays off but only gets you to 7 tricks. The defence has 4 ♥s and 2 ♣s to take so -100 will be the most common score for NS. Anything better for either side will score very well.

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<u>11</u>	J64
South	J87642
None	976
	3
KQT	A97
K953	AQ
Q2	JT543
A875	T64
	8532
	T
	AK8
	KQJ92

South will open 1♣ and West doesn't really have a bid so will pass. North should also pass and East will protect with 1♦. It then looks like West will bid NT but is it 2NT or 3NT? Not wanting to punish partner for protecting I would go for 2NT which is about right. There is a lot of bidding judgement required on this hand and the cautious will be rewarded since 7 tricks is the limit with South able to set up ♣s when in with a ♦ even if North fails to lead one. The only thing which might disrupt this scenario is if North bids 1♥ over 1♣. Then South will (probably?) bid 1♠ and could get to play there. That way EW have a chance of a plus score!

<u>12</u>	54
West	J875
NS	AK7
	8542
AKJT98	73
2	AK9
QT5	J9643
AKQ	J97
	Q62
	QT643
	82
	T63

It's hard to see any EW staying out of game on this one. I would expect most to be in 4♠ which suffers a ♦ ruff at trick 3. No doubt worried about going off now and wishing they had been in 3NT, West will be thankful to make his 10 tricks when there is no trump loser. Those who judged to play in 3NT are going to be happy when 11 tricks roll in with the ♠ finesse working and the defence unable to get more than 2 tricks. Anyone venturing above 4♠ will be severely punished!

<u>13</u>	T8
North	KT9432
All	KQ
	Q72
95	KQ7642
A	J75
A8765	J4
AT963	J4
	AJ3
	Q86
	T932
	K85

The North hand is a weak 2 for me despite its 10 points. It has no shape and the ♦KQ doubleton is not a full value 5 points. A 2♥ (or Multi 2♦) opening will test EW's methods. Over 2♥ (or 2♦-2♥) most would play 2NT from West as a strong NT hand, and double as takeout. West has neither of these and is faced with passing or bidding one of his minors – not nice! After 2♦-2♥ passed back to East he may protect with 2♠ but that is a big ask vulnerable and most would pass. So, both West and East may be defending 2♥ feeling like they should have done something. But those who did do something will be desperately wishing they were defending 2♥! Lots of possibilities and a simple plus score is the objective.

<u>14</u>	4
East	Q932
None	Q64
	A9652
Q65	AK9732
J7654	8
KT	A85
843	QJT
	JT8
	AKT
	J9732
	K7

This one is easier. East will open 1♠ and should play in anything from 2♠ to 4♠. The defence have to get their ♣ ruff in quickly and that needs South to lead the ♣K or switch after a top ♥. That is risky and few will find it – so -140 (or +50 from 4♠-1) will score well for NS and -420 won't.

<u>15</u>	J7
South	Q87
NS	T65
	QJ952
A84	Q965
T93	652
AKJ2	Q4
K43	T876
	KT32
	AKJ4
	9873
	A

What should you open on the South hand? If you open 1♠ and rebid 2♥ that would be taken as at least 5-4, so 1♥ is best expecting to find the ♠ fit if there is one. West has a good hand but no shape and he could pass or (probably most would) double. North has a choice between Pass, 1NT or 2♥ with 2♥ looking favourite. And that should end the bidding unless North passes or East gets frisky and tries 2♠. West will lead a trump or switch to one after the ♦K. Declarer should win the ♥Q to play the ♠J to ♠Q/K/A and a second trump. The ♠10 and a ♠ ruff brings declarer's tally to 7 tricks but the defence have to be careful not to tangle their ♦ tricks or the contract could make!

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<u>16</u>	A973
West	AQ932
EW	J3
	Q3
QT862	
JT	8654
K954	T7
98	AKJT652
	KJ54
	K7
	AQ862
	74

North opens 1♥ and a vulnerable East opposite a passed partner has to decide how high to go. Not vulnerable 4♣ would be my choice but vulnerable I would go for a weak jump of 3♣. South will double and NS can now find the doomed ♠ fit! I don't expect many NSs will stop out of game and 9 tricks is the limit in 4♣ even playing well. Anyone getting to an unlikely 4♥ has a good chance of making if East switches to the ♦10 after cashing his top ♣s – West will have to give East a ♠ ruff after winning the ♦K which won't be easy! So, there are chances for a plus for NS defending ♣ contracts or playing in ♥s, but the ♠ fit should be avoided!

<u>17</u>	AT8
North	QJ93
None	JT3
	K82
K	J7543
A42	765
AQ964	K85
AJ43	97
	Q962
	KT8
	72
	QT65

There are those (myself included) who open the North hand with its nice fillers and not vulnerable. 1NT would go round to West who will double. East won't fancy this so pulls to 2♠. West will wish he had passed and now has the choice of passing 2♠ or bidding 2NT or 3♦. None of these make but pulling 2♠ looks to save an undertrick since 2NT and 3♦ should both go down only one while 2♠ is down two. Meanwhile EW can take 7 tricks against 1NT so defending is their best shot at a plus.

<u>18</u>	QJ4
East	A875
NS	J93
	852
AK98762	3
QJ	64
8	KQ6542
AT3	Q764
	T5
	KT932
	AT7
	KJ9

Another 11 pointer and I would open 1♥ as South. To be honest it's hard to see the West hand stopping below at least 2♠ and neither North nor South should compete over that. Defending 2♠ NS will prevail as long as they just keep leading ♥s after trumps are gone. So ♥A, ♥ to ♥K and a trump is good enough to hold it to 7 tricks. There will be a few who let 8 tricks through and possibly some who get too high in ♥s, so I expect a lot of +50 scores for NS and anything better will do well.

<u>19</u>	AT9
South	8
EW	AT97432
	JT
KJ876532	
965	AQJT43
QJ	6
	AK9843
	Q4
	K72
	K85
	Q7652

And wow – a wild one! South passes and West will preempt in ♠s at some level between 2♠ and 4♠. Vulnerable I would go for 3♠ with an 8 card suit. North will be tempted to get his ♦ suit into the bidding but his partner has passed so he might pass also. And poor old East is left looking for a bid over 3♠ or 4♦! Slam could be on but opposite a ♠ preempt is unlikely. 4♥ is the practical bid and also happens to work best. 11 tricks are possible if you read the hand perfectly - ruff a ♣, win the ♥A, cash ♣AK and take the ruffing finesse against the ♣Q. But most will make only 10 tricks. 5♦ is a good sacrifice so North does best by bidding to give them a chance of getting to 5♦x.

<u>20</u>	975
West	AJT3
All	KT87
	QT
JT	3
K852	Q76
AQ42	J9653
K72	J643
	AKQ8642
	94
	A985

West opens 1NT and this passes round to South who has to find a bid. Is double right? It could be as long as EW don't have a lot of tricks in the red suits before you get in. If not double then how many ♠s? 3♠ would normally be preemptive but you are in 4<sup>th</sup> spot so no need to preempt. Have you discussed what 3♠ would mean here? Would partner read it correctly? Should you bid 4♠? Well double would get 2♦ out of East then a jump to 3♠ would get you to game. If you jump to 3♠ and don't get to game you won't score much – time to discuss this position with partner?!



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21	Q74
North	A93
NS	T8752
	AT
AKT32	95
Q764	JT5
94	AJ
Q8	K97532
	J86
	K82
	KQ63
	J64

In 4<sup>th</sup> seat West will have to decide whether to pass it out. Surely not with the ♠ suit and an opening (albeit light) bid. So, 1♠, 1NT from East, then East will (probably) correct 2♥ to 2♠. Trumps and ♥s are 3-3 so there are, at least theoretically, 8 tricks available. But there are a few hurdles to get over to establish your ♥ and ♣ tricks before you get forced too often in ♦s. So, win ♦A on a ♦ lead and then play the ♥J to ♥A. If the defence play ♣A and a ♣ then play 3 rounds of trumps and you can beat the forcing game. +110 will score well for EW.

22	Q6
East	85
EW	Q942
	QJT74
J	AT92
AJT32	4
JT653	AK8
A9	K6532
	K87543
	KQ976
	7
	8

More fireworks. 1♣ from East and South will bid – some will try 1♠, others 2♣ Michaels for the majors. Over 1♠ West might double or bid 2♥ with a decent hand, North will be happy to keep out of it and West will probably bid 1NT over a double, 2NT over 2♥. Over 2♣, West can double to suggest a penalty or can bid 2♦. North still has nothing to say! If West doubles then EW might defend 2♠x. If he bids 2♦, they might get to 3NT via 3♦-3♥-3NT. 3NT will make at least 9 tricks on sensible play so, 2♠x would have to go 4 off for 800 to be good. Should be an exciting hand!

23	AKQ7
South	5
All	AQJT
	AQT2
T4	J852
Q642	KJT
K82	753
9654	873
	963
	A9873
	964
	KJ

What to bid on the North hand? Some will just open 1♦, others might try an off shape 2NT and yet others might try something even stronger! 1♦ would be my choice, then 2♠ over South's 1♥ and we would get to 3NT. In fact, most roads will lead to 3NT. Whatever is led 12 tricks are there with 4♦ tricks since dummy has enough entries to pick them up. Anyone getting to slam will get a less than well deserved top. Otherwise, I would predict a long line of +690 for NS.

24	K85
West	A8
None	AK
	AKJ843
J9732	4
QT5	J3
75432	QJT86
	T9652
	AQT6
	K97642
	9
	Q7

Another 22 count for North! This is a much better hand though with a great suit and better potential. It is too good for 2NT and it is worth either a balanced 23-24 or game forcing in ♣s, with the first of these getting my vote. South has a huge hand opposite this and 7NT is a great contract which fails only because of the foul ♣ split. The trap is to get to a grand slam and there is no justice for any who get to 7♣ or 7NT. The best scores will come from 6NT with 6♥ not too far behind (even a ♣ ruff is with a trump winner). There will be plenty of variety on this one, I think.

25	KQJ85
North	J84
EW	73
	Q83
4	T32
Q5	963
KQT52	986
AKJ96	T542
	A976
	AKT72
	AJ4
	7

NS get most of the points again with some distribution thrown in for good measure. South will start off with 1♥ and West will try 2NT for the minors. It's too high for North so he will pass (3♥ is possible but ambitious playing 4 card majors). East will dutifully bid 3♣ and South should double this for takeout. That lets North get his ♠ suit in and he has plenty to jump to 4♠. That will end the bidding even if South does feel good about his hand. Unless something odd happens East will lead a minor and West will switch to the ♦K, declarer will draw trumps and take the ♥ finesse (running the ♥J to pick up Q9xx in East). After the ♥Q West will lay down the ♦Q to hold it to 10 tricks. NS would be best to defend 3♣x for 500 but +450 in 4♠ will do very well.

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26	K72
East	KJT87
All	K87
	93
AQT863	954
96	AQ4
	AJT32
KQJ62	87
	J
	532
	Q9654
	AT54

This one looks like 4♠ for EW with North perhaps coming in with a light 2♥ bid. 11 tricks are favourite by ruffing a ♣ and pitching a ♥ on the ♦A. I can't see many going above 4♠ and slam has no chance so it isn't a good move. So, +650 for a top (shared of course) and +620 for a bottom? Or will something else happen to spice things up?!

27	A876
South	T7653
None	85
	Q3
K2	QJ5
A4	Q98
QJ74	AKT962
KT752	A
	T943
	KJ2
	3
	J9864

A tricky one to bid now. West has the choice between 1NT and 1♣ (I prefer 1NT) and East gets a bit excited knowing they are on the fringes of the slam zone. After 1♣ he can bid 1♦ or 2♦ if that is strong and single suited. West will support ♦s and then East will cue in ♣s denying major suit controls. Looking at his major suits West will probably be happy to push to slam – if you are above 3NT, slam is needed to score well anyway. Played by East slam is cold with the ♥K in the South hand. After a 1NT opener it is trickier and EW are much more likely to end up in 3NT which is likely to make only 11 tricks. So, +920 for a top and +460 for an average, I think.

28	832
West	J932
NS	T86
	A84
QJ754	AT6
764	QT8
953	A2
72	KT653
	K9
	AK5
	KQJ74
	QJ9

East will open 1NT in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat and South will pull out the red card. EW will get to 2♠ by whatever methods they play and then NS's system comes under scrutiny. Beating 2♠ doesn't look at all easy so there may be some 2♠x= scores. 3♦ is the best spot for NS and 9 tricks are there or thereabouts. This will be another board with a mixture of scores and probably as many minus as plus scores.

29	A2
North	73
All	Q985
	KQ964
T85	KQ9
T54	A86
AJ3	KT762
T532	87
	J7643
	KQJ92
	4
	AJ

Will North open? It's a toss-up between Pass and 1♣ with 1NT a distant option. If North passes then East will open 1NT, South will employ a gadget to show either the majors or a 2 suiter of some kind, and NS will get to play in 2 of a major or perhaps 2NT. If North opens 1♣, East will overcall 1♦ and NS will almost certainly get to game which they will be very unlikely to make whatever game they choose. Deep Finesse says North can make 3♥, 2♠ or 2NT so in theory at least NS can get a plus. Theory is fickle however and there are some traps to avoid on the way. There may be a +170 or two but also some minus scores for NS, especially if North opens.

30	T8
East	96532
None	T2
	Q852
AK642	QJ7
J7	AKQ4
QJ96	7543
A3	KJ
	953
	T8
	AK8
	T9764

And a bit of a trap hand to end with. EW are close to the values for slam but fate has given NS the ♦AK and EW only 11 tricks outside ♦s with no chance for a 12<sup>th</sup>. So, there will be a number who get to slam and rue the day. Those who play in 4♠+1 will be delighted they didn't get to slam, and those who play in 3NT will feel very smug that they have 11 tricks too! So, +460 is a top and -50 (or 100 if doubled?) is a bottom.