



Warwickshire Charity Simultaneous Pairs
In aid of Warwickshire Air Ambulance
Tuesday 9 May 2017



1	A7432
North	543
None	Q98
	Q4
85	KQJ9
AKQ762	J8
543	JT
A3	K9875
	T6
	T9
	AK762
	JT62

If East decides to open then EW ought to get to 4♥ without much difficulty and this should make exactly 10 tricks as long as NS manage to cash their 2♦ tricks. If East passes then it isn't quite as easy but should still be reached after, say, 1♥-2♣-2♥-2♠-3♦-3♥-4♥ or if West is feeling more aggressive then 1♥-2♣-3♥-4♥. Anyone trying 3NT won't score well even if North leads a ♠ rather than a ♦ since they should really make only 9 tricks.

2	QJ642
East	32
NS	A83
	987
AK3	T87
AT854	Q9
Q5	JT76
T32	AJ64
	95
	KJ76
	K942
	KQ5

This will be more competitive. South will open 1NT playing a weak NT which may well get him/her (hereafter him for brevity) playing 2♠ after a transfer by North. West has a nasty lead and South may make his 8 tricks for a good score. If South plays a strong NT and opens 1♥ that will keep EW out of the bidding and will probably result in South playing 1NT. Again this is touch and go but 7 tricks might get through, again for a good score. Finally if South opens 1♦ (5 card majors, strong NT) West will bid 1♥, North 1♠ and South again will bid and play 1NT. A tricky hand for the defence and EW will do well to get a plus score.

3	AKT76
South	Q75
EW	Q6
	643
4	Q9832
KJ9	A43
KJ87	432
KQJ87	92
	J5
	T862
	AT95
	AT5

Here East is likely to play 1NT after 1♣ from West and a 1♠ overcall. It looks like, after the ♠J is led to the ♠Q, a good guess in ♦s will give an 8th trick since ♣s are good for 4 tricks. If East passes 1♠ and South bids 1NT then that is likely to be the end of the bidding. West will lead his ♣s and the interesting point in defence is if West leads a ♥ is then it should be the ♥J to cater for exactly this position, giving EW 3♥ tricks. So 1NT by South could be as much as 3 off but even 2 off is a good score for EW. If South passes 1♠ then West should double (in case partner has a penalty double of 1♠) and East will then bid 1NT.

4	2
West	AJ83
All	KT82
	T874
K97	6543
KQ754	2
A53	J96
AK	QJ652
	AQJT8
	T96
	Q74
	93

There will be some who will open the West hand with 2NT or a strong artificial opening, but most will open 1♥. This will be passed to South who should protect with 1♠. West may then try 1NT after the disappointment of partner's pass. There will be variations where West may be in 2NT or North may be in 1NT. I would back NS as more likely to get a plus score but a plus for either side should do well.

5	QJ976
North	87
NS	Q64
	J97
T3	AK42
A96543	KJT
K83	J75
A3	QT4
	85
	Q2
	AT92
	K8652

It looks odds on for EW to get to 4♥ on this one. East will open 1NT, West will transfer and either invite or just bash 4♥, and East would accept an invitation. Any who play in 3NT may even outscore 4♥ by making the same number of tricks. So East is in 4♥ and South finds the safe lead of a ♠ – how to play it? If you can see all the cards it is easy! Win the ♠K and play a ♦ to the ♦K, ♠A, ♠ ruff, ♥K, ♠ ruff, ♥A and exit with a ♦. Whoever wins the last ♦ will have to lead a ♣ or give a ruff and discard, so 11 tricks roll in! Declarer may get a ♣ lead or switch which would also let 11 tricks through. +450 will score well and any rogue +430 from 3NT will too.

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6	KQ3
East	Q2
EW	A83
	JT854
A65	9874
T8763	A54
QT7	K954
A9	Q6
	JT2
	KJ9
	J62
	K732

I would have to be desperate to open the West hand with 1♥ vulnerable with such a weak suit even 3rd in hand. So North will open 1NT and play there, or perhaps open 1♣ and pass South's 1NT (preferred to 2♣ with a 4333 hand and at Pairs). Played by North, East will lead a safe ♠ or a more aggressive ♦ with the ♦ coming out on top in this case. Played by South, West will lead a ♥. How you play the ♣ suit is in fact a tossup – running the ♣J or small to the ♣K have equal odds. Anyone making 9 tricks should get a top with +120 doing well also.

7	T8
South	JT84
All	K8
	AKT84
96	AQJ7543
A732	65
AQJ52	9743
95	
	K2
	KQ9
	T6
	QJ7632

The South hand should pass but both the West and North hands are openers for me. If West opens 1♦ then EW should get to 4♠ which is an easy make. If West passes and North opens 1♣ then the outcome is less predictable – NS will persist in ♣s but can make only 10 tricks. So there will be a number of 4♠ contracts making, some ♠ part scores for EW and some ♣ contracts for NS – a few of them in 5♣ going off. Any plus score for NS will be an excellent score, anything less than +620 for EW won't do too well.

8	K532
West	AT4
None	54
	A864
A974	T8
85	J9732
JT9	AK872
KQ53	7
	QJ6
	KQ6
	Q63
	JT92

Another part score battle, although it may well be thrown in at some tables since no one has an opening bid! If North feels inclined to open then EW might get into the fray and possibly even find their way to the making 3♦. South of course will feel compelled to do something but this will either be to double EW or go to 2NT. It takes a ♦ lead to beat 2NT and a ♥ looks more attractive from the East hand, so perhaps North was right to open after all! Any plus score for either side will help their score.

9	AQT
North	QJT96
EW	A5
	K92
5	K732
AK732	8
KT98	J743
864	QJT3
	J9864
	54
	Q62
	A75

Not the most exciting set of hands so far – this is another part score. North will open 1♥ and NS will probably play in 1NT. The ♣Q will be led to the ♣K, then ♠A, ♠Q to set up the ♠s. This gives declarer 7 tricks and there could be one more in the wash. If North opens a strong NT then the contract would be 2♠ by North after South transfers. West could double South's 2♥ bid and East will lead his singleton ♥. There are too many variations to predict accurately what might happen but 8 tricks look to be the limit with sensible defence. Any plus for EW should do well and anything better than +110 should do well for NS.

10	K
East	KT875
All	QJ9876
	6
AT76	Q9843
J964	Q32
T52	3
T9	KJ83
	J52
	A
	AK4
	AQ7542

A bit of excitement at last! In the absence of a Lucas 2♠ from East, South will open 1♣ and North has to decide whether to bid ♦s and reverse later into ♥s or bid ♥s then ♦s later. The hand isn't really good enough to reverse so I would start with 1♥ and bid it as a 5-5 hand. If East tries 1♠ (marginal vul) then South will probably go for 3♣ and North again has a tricky bid. It is either Pass (cautious) or 3♦ (bold but my choice). Over 3♦ South will bid 3♠, North 4♦ and South will go to 5♦. The hands fit well and 12 tricks can be made by ruffing ♥s in dummy and ♣s in hand – a partial cross ruff on a trump lead or even a full cross ruff without. If East opens 2♠ it makes it a lot more difficult!

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11	Q2
South	QT5
None	K97
	QT876
AK87	J964
6	AKJ43
A52	QJ83
K9543	
	T53
	9872
	T64
	AJ2

More excitement. EW should have a clear run at this one and I can't see anyone getting to 6♠ even if Deep Finesse says it makes! 1♣-1♥-1♠-4♠ looks like the usual way to bid it and it should be a universal 4♠ (but I'm sure there will be one or two who avoid it somehow!). With the cards lying very nicely there is every chance of making 12 tricks by dropping the ♠Q, ruffing the ♥s good and giving up only the ♦K. The lead to give the most problems would be a ♣ from North forcing dummy to ruff which makes the entries more difficult to manage. +480 for EW will be good.

12	Q765
West	J6
NS	T96
	JT43
A	JT982
KQT98532	7
A	K8732
Q87	K2
	K43
	A4
	QJ54
	A965

And now an 8 card suit – after a dull start it has come alive! The West hand is too good to open 4♥, so 1♥-1♠, South will double and West will then just bid 4♥. Trumps lie kindly and the only question is whether 10 or 11 tricks will be made. Having cashed the ♦A, West could lead a ♣ to the ♣K hoping the ♣A is right. Or if NS are perhaps less experienced it is feasible to lead the ♣Q and check North's reaction. NS may just take the ♣A which gives 11 tricks, or North may hesitate over the ♣Q which could be overtaken with the ♣K for a discard on the ♦K. The 11th trick will be needed for a good score.

13	KQ43
North	KJ7
All	98
	AK93
2	T986
QT865	A94
AQJT5	32
T6	Q754
	AJ75
	32
	K764
	J82

The West hand conforms to the Rule of 19 for an opening bid, so some will open 1♥. North will bid 1NT, East may bid 2♥ (easier if EW are playing 5 card majors) and NS's methods will be tested. Playing Lebensohl FAST (Fast Arrival Shows Stop) 2NT from South forces 3♣ from North and then 3♥ would show 4♠ and no ♥ stop. The North hand looks pretty good and will go to 4♠. Sadly the hands don't fit too well and nothing much works, so 4♠ will go at least one down. If EW get too involved then NS will have a chance to get a plus score by defending! The cautious bidders will do well.

14	AJT6
East	KQJ96
None	5432
KQ54	97
87	AT532
QJ	A87
QJT92	A65
	832
	4
	KT96
	K8743

This looks like EW will do all the bidding and the faster they stop the better given the lie of the cards. It's probably best to play in ♣s but NT might play well too and will score more. Against NT South's best lead is a ♠, North wins the ♠A and plays a ♦ to South's ♦K, then a 2nd ♠. Because of entry problems careful defence thereafter will hold declarer to 7 tricks. Anyone who finds this line deserves a top! More often than not East will make 8 or even 9 tricks despite the distribution. A plus score for NS should score well.

15	T632
South	Q975
NS	QJ
	Q65
8	Q9
KT	AJ862
T9654	A872
AK432	J7
	AKJ754
	43
	K3
	T98

South will open 1♠ and West will no doubt bid 2NT to show the minors. North isn't good enough to bid at the 3 level, especially with most of his values in the minors. East will like his hand but won't be sure how many tricks it is worth. It is good to have an agreement about how strong 2NT might be. Personally I play that it has a max of a minimum opening bid. So opposite xx x KQJxx KQxxx there are 3 top losers for example. There will be hands where 5♦ will be a decent contract but there will be many where it isn't. A bid of 3♣ could be used as a game try which West might just accept by bidding 5♣, corrected by you to 5♦. It needs a 2-2 trump split to make which is only a 40% chance but succeeds here.

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16	A
West	J95
EW	AJ932
	QJ72
8743	JT952
Q642	73
5	Q764
AT54	98
	KQ6
	AKT8
	KT8
	K63

This time NS are in charge of the bidding. North will open 1♦ and South will settle for 1♥ to start with, North will normally raise to 2♥ (bidding 2♣ then 2♥ over 2♦ say would show a better hand). South is still thinking of slam but wants more information, so might continue with a 2♠ bid or 3♦ if that is forcing in your methods. North's hand isn't terrible and South's is strong in points but has no distribution. There will be some who end up in slam (6♦/6♥/6NT) but I would expect few if any to make 12 tricks – it requires a first round ♦ finesse through East which is anti-percentage (better to cash ♦K first in case the ♦Q is singleton). +460 will be common for NS.

17	T2
North	KQ8
None	7543
	Q632
AQ75	8643
AT9	72
AKJ62	Q9
T	AKJ94
	KJ9
	J6543
	T8
	875

A nice 18 count for West this time and (almost?) without exception it will be passed to West. So 1♦ is opened and what does East do? Those who play 5 card majors generally have to show a 4 card major here even if it is very weak, so a few might bid 1♠ and have a tiger by the tail! After 1♦-1♠ West has a good 4♣ bid available to agree ♠s and show shortage there. East will sign off in 4♠ and there it should end really. A 2♣ response will dampen West's enthusiasm but 2♠ will now show reversing values (and be game forcing after a 2 level response). So all roads seem to lead to 4♠. 12 tricks are available with the ♠ finesse right, so any in slam should make. Anything less than +480 for EW will score badly.

18	
East	98763
NS	JT53
	KQJ4
AQJ8	K7652
QJ5	T2
72	AK96
9752	T8
	T943
	AK4
	Q84
	A63

Any East who decides this is an opener should do well since a contract of 2♠ or 3♠ will be reached and at least 8 tricks will be made despite the foul trump break. If East passes then South will open 1NT, North will transfer to ♥s and pass 2♥ leaving East to protect with 2♠. North will do well to compete over 2♠ but it is unlikely anyone will get to 4♥ which is a lucky make. I would expect most tables will play in 2♠ or 3♠ by EW making 8 or 9 tricks. A plus for either side will score well.

19	AKT
South	K74
EW	KJ8
	JT96
97654	Q
5	QJT983
972	Q5
K843	AQ72
	J832
	A62
	AT643
	5

North will kick things off with 1♣, East will bid 1♥, South double and North 1NT to show a strong NT. With his ♥A and good ♦s South should raise to 2NT, or if feeling optimistic perhaps even 3NT. With a minimum North will pass whichever South bids. If North opens a strong 1NT, East will bid 2♥ and NS's methods will be under scrutiny. South is not strong enough to force to game but may be able to make a negative double. This should elicit 2NT from North which South should pass. The hand plays well and North can make 11 tricks on a ♥ lead, so 3NT will score well. There will be those who play penalty doubles and defend 2♥x. A ♣ lead and very careful defence will result in 2 ♣ ruffs for 2 off, +500 and a top!

20	53
West	Q85
All	KQT874
	65
KT98	Q742
K63	AJT4
32	J6
KJ92	A43
	AJ6
	972
	A95
	QT87

If North passes, East will open 1NT and play there. There are a host of ♦ winners for the defence but they have to find them! If EW play a strong NT then it works out better for them since they will find their ♠ fit. In ♠ there are a lucky 10 tricks available if you guess well! What if North opens a weak 2♦? East might stretch a bit and double which might propel them to 4♠. If he passes then either West will protect if South passes, or East should still protect if South raises to 3♦. So anything could happen on this one! +620 for EW will be a great score and NS will score well by taking NT contracts off – the more off the better!

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21	9865
North	T632
NS	2
	AJT2
AQ74	KJ2
A8	QJ754
AT763	K954
K9	8
	T3
	K9
	QJ8
	Q76543

There will be some who open the East hand at the vulnerability but most will pass I expect. South won't get frisky vulnerable. So West will probably see 3 green cards on the table. A normal sequence would start 1♦-1♥-1♠-2♣ where 2♣ is 4th suit forcing. As a passed hand East can afford to do this even if they play it as normally game forcing. West can bid 2♥ (East will bid again) and EW should get to 5♦ knowing the ♣ suit is a problem for NT. There is little in the play – trumps don't split but the ♥ finesse works. So +400 looks the best EW can do. 3NT by West can make by endplaying North but anything above 3NT or 5♦ won't make. Any plus for NS will be gold dust.

22	65
East	AK972
EW	KJ6
	Q62
KQJT7	832
Q86	T54
T942	AQ7
3	JT94
	A94
	J3
	853
	AK875

It's hard to see NS staying out of game here. South will open 1NT, North will transfer to ♥ then bid 3NT which South will pass. If South opens 1♣ North will still insist on game and 3NT would be the normal choice. West will lead the ♠K and South will duck twice. If West leads a 3rd ♠ then can win the ♠A, Play the ♥J to ♥Q/K, ♣K, ♥ to ♥9/10. That gives declarer 4 ♥s, 3 ♣s and a ♠ – and on the run of the ♥s East will be squeezed in the minors to allow a 9th trick to be made. Not many would take this line and West should really switch to a ♦ at trick 3 anyway. Any NS with a plus score will do well.

23	Q6
South	QT864
All	83
	JT32
KT42	5
3	AJ752
KJ62	QT54
9865	AKQ
	AJ9873
	K9
	A97
	74

South will open 1♠ and North will respond 1NT. East won't stay silent and can double (a takeout double of 1♠ effectively) or bid 2♥. The ♥ suit is not very robust and double looks the better choice. South will no doubt bid 2♠ which will come back to East. Some will double and West will have to choose between 2♣ and 2♦ – probably selecting the stronger ♦ suit. There is also some merit in passing 2♠x hoping for the magic 200. So the final contracts will be many and varied I expect, with the majority of plus scores going to EW.

24	J8532
West	AKQ6
None	A
	A87
Q9	A7
9832	J75
KQ95	JT764
QJ5	962
	KT64
	T4
	832
	KT43

Here there should be a universal contract of 4♠ by NS most often played by North. It will make either 10 or 11 tricks depending on how declarer plays trumps. Small to the ♠10 gives better odds – winning with single ♠9 or ♠7 in West but losing to a single ♠Q, the 2-2 splits cancelling each other out. So those who sniff out that this is the time to defy the odds will score better than the statisticians!

25	KT972
North	K95
EW	532
	82
J84	6
64	T873
AT97	K864
QJ96	A543
	AQ53
	AQJ2
	QJ
	KT7

Another 4♠ for NS although this time a few might stay out of game – perhaps North would pass after South opens 1♣ or 1♥ then raises 1♠ to 3♠? And this time there are only 10 tricks there with 3 top minor suit losers and no apparent way to make more. So the top ought to be +420 and the bottom +170 with nothing in between!? I'll believe it when I see it!



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26	742
East	QJ7
All	964
	K654
KQ9863	AJ
K	8542
JT3	AKQ8
J82	QT9
	T5
	AT963
	752
	A73

Yet another 4♠ contract but this time for EW. The bidding will be something like 1♦-1♠-1NT-4♠ or 1NT-2♥-2♠-4♠ if playing a strong NT. The defence need to cash their ♥A quickly or the ♥K will be discarded on a ♦ to make 11 tricks. This is a bit more likely if West plays the hand and North finds the ♥Q lead. Again not much variation in the scores, +650 for a top and +620 for an average! Anyone not getting to game will be in the doghouse.

27	KT97
South	AJ65
None	J842
	3
QJ5	A432
KT	932
T	Q9763
AKQT542	9
	86
	Q874
	AK5
	J876

EW will probably have the bidding to themselves on this one. West will open 1♣, East will bid 1♦ or perhaps 1♠ if they play 5 card majors. Over 1♦ West will be very tempted to just bash 3NT but the timid will bid 3♣ (and play there), as will those whose partner bid 1♠. No doubt those who got to 3NT will feel hard done by when the ♣s don't behave, while those who stayed in 3♣ will feel vindicated! 3NT could be a hospital case on the ♠10 lead with declarer having to take his winners to keep the damage to 4 down! 3♣ looks to be down as well on sensible defence. So NS look to get all the plus scores - and the bigger the better!

28	A75
West	T75
NS	AJT
	8752
KJT8432	Q9
K	A9
KQ5	98632
K9	J643
	6
	QJ86432
	74
	AQT

The Battle of the Majors! Played in ♥s by NS there are only 9 tricks losing 2 trumps (unless East feels compelled to rise with the ♥A on the first round!) and one in each minor. Played in ♠s by EW it is touch and go for 10 tricks. To beat 4♠ North has to lead trumps to remove East's entry to the ♥A before the ♥K is unblocked. The bidding will have been 1♠-1NT-4♠ with South no doubt getting his ♥ suit in at some level. So a ♥ lead is probably more likely than a trump and 4♠ will make more often than not. A sacrifice in 5♥ is not a good idea at the vulnerability.

29	KJ64
North	A7
All	K8763
	63
T85	A932
2	654
AQ52	J94
AQ952	T84
	Q7
	KQJT983
	T
	KJ7

If North opens then all the tea in China won't keep South out of 4♥. If North passes then South will open 1♥, West may double or may try 2♣, North will make a noise of some kind – redouble or a double of 2♣, and South will again get to 4♥ more often than not. West will hate leading and will choose a trump or a ♠. When in with the ♠A it should be clear for East to switch to a ♣ which is enough to sink 4♥ – as long as West cashes his 3 tricks. Any dilly dallying by EW will be disastrous since declarer can discard on dummy's ♠s. A few will get home in 4♥ for a good score, some will profit from staying out of game and most will go down no doubt feeling a bit aggrieved.

30	95
East	QJ8763
None	KJT
	42
AT732	QJ
542	AK9
42	Q875
QT3	KJ98
	K864
	T
	A963
	A765

EW will bid 1♦-1♠-1NT (or perhaps a 1♣ opener for some) and North should really protect with 2♥. An active West might just push with 2♠ but some will pass 2♥. A strong NT from East would get 2♥ from West (double from North if it shows ♥s) and EW would play 2♠. So the most common contracts will be 1NT/East, 2♥/North and 2♠ by EW. Each of these contracts could make 8 tricks, so in this case it would pay NS to get involved in the bidding. +120 will be a good score for EW and +110 good for NS.