



Warwickshire Charity Simultaneous Pairs – In aid of Warwickshire Air Ambulance

Tuesday 10 May 2016



1	95
North	KT32
None	J86
	8642
JT62	873
Q	9864
AK732	95
AQ7	K953
	AKQ4
	AJ75
	QT4
	JT

A competitive battle to start with. South will open – 1♥, 1♠ or a strong NT – and West will get involved. If South opens 1♥ it may get NS to a making 2♥ or they may get too high. If 1♠ or 1NT then EW may well get to play the hand at the 2 level in ♦ or ♠ most likely. Any plus score ought to do well and there will be some NS pairs scoring +120 in NT for a good score. The best EW are likely to score will be a plus from a failing NS contract.

2	Q64
East	JT932
NS	543
	98
KJT9732	85
A	Q65
AJ9	KQT76
Q2	A63
	A
	K874
	82
	KJT754

The contract at most tables will be 4♠ by West. South will have bid ♣s at some stage and a ♣ lead from North will hold it to 10 tricks which should be about average. Any EW who somehow manage to get East to play 4♠ will be able to make 11 tricks and this will be an unusual event so should score very well. At the vulnerability it is unlikely that NS will be looking for a sacrifice which is just as well since 5♥ would be 4 off for 1100!

3	Q8
South	K96
EW	AQJ86
	AQJ
543	962
AQ8	JT73
T7	K95
KT432	965
	AKJT7
	542
	432
	87

It won't matter much what methods you play – this one will be played in 3NT by North at most tables with a few preferring 4♠ by South. Against 3NT East is very likely to lead a ♥ which is not what North wanted at all. He is likely to use ♠ entries in dummy to finesse in ♦s rather than ♣s which will let the defence take 4 tricks. If declarer is inspired enough to finesse ♣s instead then 10 tricks can be made but that would be an unusual play since 12 tricks are there if the ♦ finesse works and they split 3-2. Played in 4♠ by South West will lead the ♦10 or perhaps a ♣. When the ♦ finesse loses to the ♦K East will have to be alert enough to play a ♥ to hold it to 11 tricks. I can see a lot of 3NT= and a smattering of 4♠+1. Anything better than 600 should score well.

4	Q853
West	8742
All	J74
	J5
T742	KJ96
AQ	T653
95	T862
AQT43	6
	A
	KJ9
	AKQ3
	K9872

This one is a lot harder to predict! West will open – probably 1♣ but some might try 1NT, East may be tempted to respond or may pass and the spotlight will be on South. Double will be the first bid and after that it gets messy. North and East will not be happy to get too involved and South may well be a bit insistent. There will be a big variety of contracts, probably most played by NS and few will be making. Any plus score for either side should be admired and will get some good match points in. Otherwise the smaller the penalty the better!

5	43
North	95
NS	QJ98743
	K7
AKJ9872	Q
AK4	T83
2	KT6
QT	J86432
	T65
	QJ762
	A5
	A95

Most Wests will play this in 4♠ whether North opens 3♦ or not. It's hard to see a winning line of play and it's even harder to see how EW can play it in the solid 3NT, which will be very frustrating in the post mortem. The EWs who will score best will be those who stay in a part score – a rather timid view of the big West hand but it would prove fruitful! Anything better than +50 will score well for NS but I expect most tables will see 4♠-1 on the score sheet.

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6	A32
East	T6
EW	954
	AJT43
QJT97	K85
74	QJ98
Q876	T32
KQ	752
	64
	AK532
	AKJ
	986

Those playing a strong NT will rue the day on this hand. 1NT from South will get 3NT from North – unless West finds a bid. Vulnerable and with a passed partner this seems a bit risky but who knows? Even if West does bid North is likely to plump for 3NT anyway. And 3NT is a bit unlucky with West having an obvious ♠ lead and also both ♣ honours. So 1 off for those poor souls. Others will open 1♥ on the South cards, West will bid 1♠ no doubt and NS will most often stop in a part score. 8 tricks will be made in 2NT or 9 tricks in ♥s if played carefully. EW plus scores will be at a premium and will score well, +140 for NS is going to be about the best they can do, although taking 200 out of 2♠-2 would be better although that will take a very good defence.

7	AK943
South	QJ6
All	Q65
	KT
J75	Q2
875	AT3
J7	K983
Q8653	AJ97
	T86
	K942
	AT42
	42

North will open 1♠, or 1NT for the strong NTers. East will double 1♠ and South will probably bid 2♠, although some might try 1NT. Over 1NT from North, East will pass and it will end there. So NS will almost certainly play the hand in 1NT or 2♠ with few exceptions. If South plays 1NT a ♣ lead will see the contract in trouble and it can be beaten so long as West doesn't switch to a ♦ after the ♣s. With North playing 1NT I can see some who will make as many as 3 overtricks after a ♦ lead! In 2♠ North is most likely to make 9 tricks although a few might make more.

8	94
West	AQT72
None	AK
	9843
KQ8	T653
65	984
87643	J2
T76	AQ52
	AJ72
	KJ3
	QT95
	KJ

Here EW will have little to do with the bidding and final contract will be either 4♥ or 3NT played most often by North. In 3NT by North the only way to stop 11 tricks is for E to lead the S10! That won't happen so NS will make 2 overtricks in 3NT. In 4♥ EW will have to be careful to lead ♠s or switch to them after the ♣A, or NS can make 12 tricks by taking a ♣ ruff in the South hand. Taking out the ♠A early disrupts communications and stops 12 tricks. I imagine 4H+2 will be a top for NS and anything better than -450 will be good for EW.

9	KJ94
North	KJ7
EW	932
	652
32	QT5
82	AT65
AK8	QT6
KQJT87	A43
	A876
	Q943
	J754
	9

The contract here will be 3NT by East at most tables. Most will open the East hand 1NT and be raised straight to 3NT. The strong NTers will open 1♣ and get there anyway. South will probably lead a ♥ but there will be some who lead a ♠ and they will kick themselves afterwards since this will let EW make 11 tricks when most of the field will make only 10. The vast majority will play 3NT+1 with a few getting the extra trick for a great score.

10	987652
East	AT
All	KT
	QJ9
KQ4	J3
KQ62	9853
A85	963
A54	KT62
	AT
	J74
	QJ742
	873

Another difficult one to predict. I can see possible partscore contracts in ♥s or NT (maybe even ♣s) for EW and in ♠s or ♦s for NS. The outcome will depend on how low they have stayed and how tight the defence has been, but this is one of those boards where any plus score will be good. EW just might sneak 1NT or 2♥ through while NS might make 2♦ or 2♠ – despite the fact that Deep Finesse says that of these only 2♦ ought to get through.

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<u>11</u>	QT985
South	42
None	T543
	K5
AJ76	43
83	KQJT75
Q972	J8
A98	762
	K2
	A96
	AK6
	QJT43

How do you fancy 3NT by South? Well it's a dreadful contract but with the EW setup it will make losing just one trick in each suit. OK you have to win the 2nd ♥ but if East has mentioned them in passing then you might just do that! Very few if any will be in 3NT but most contracts will be played by NS in ♠ or NT I expect. In NT most will make 8 tricks if West gets off to a ♥ lead or switches to ♥s after the ♣A. In ♠, although Deep Finesse says 9 tricks are there, it looks very tricky to achieve and I would think most would make just 8 tricks. So NT will do best. EW need to be careful not to offer a penalty option though – that would not do well with 7 tricks the limit in ♥s.

<u>12</u>	KT
West	T972
NS	T86543
	J
J87654	AQ3
5	KQ864
A	J97
KT952	Q8
	92
	AJ3
	KQ2
	A7643

I would doubt that NS will put up much resistance on this one and the main question will be whether EW get as high as 4♠. Those who do will be delighted when the black suits lie so kindly for them. It is even possible for 11 tricks to be made if North's ♣J lead is not read by South as shortage and the ♣A is ducked! So the likely final contracts will be 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠ by EW making 10 or 11 tricks. If NS do get involved then they might regret it since there is very little their way that will make or offer a worthwhile sacrifice.

<u>13</u>	6
North	QT96
All	K65
	98532
8742	AQT3
J75	K3
QT	J7432
AJ64	T7
	KJ95
	A842
	A98
	KQ

If NS play a strong NT then this is likely to be played in 1NT by South (East might try something like ASPTRO but vul it looks too risky to me). Against 1NT EW have no suits to attack and a South who is a good guesser will make as many as 8 tricks. More commonly South will open 1♥ (or maybe 1♠) and this will probably get NS to 3♥ (or 2NT). A very few might get to 4♥ which looks too high but might just scrape through – again if South guesses really well! A plus score for EW will do well but for NS it would have to be +120 or better to get a really good score.

<u>14</u>	T432
East	J9542
None	K54
	Q
J95	AQ7
K8	A763
AQ8	T6
AT954	K873
	K86
	QT
	J9732
	J62

Most will just bid this 1NT-3NT to get it played by East. South will most often lead a ♦ and declarer will play small from dummy – then if you can guess to play the ♣s for 5 tricks you will have 11 in total, losing just a ♠ after that. If you get the ♣s wrong after that start then you may be held to as few as 9 tricks. Those who don't open the East hand 1NT may get 3NT played by West on a ♥ lead from North. Getting the ♣ suit right would let declarer lose the ♠ finesse and then, after a ♥ return, play to throw North in with a ♥ later to lead away from his ♦K for 11 tricks. Other views might well be taken in this case though and again you might make as few as 9 tricks. So a universal 3NT (?) by EW making between 9 and 11 tricks.

<u>15</u>	AJT4
South	AQ6
NS	K2
	KT32
95	K76
9	KJ8532
T9876543	
65	AQ87
	Q832
	T74
	AQJ
	J94

Well anything could happen here! A West who is much braver (is that the right word?) than me might open 3♦ at favourable. Barring that, NS might just about get to their 4♠ contract and, who knows, might even make it, although it could easily go off on a ♥ lead if declarer tries to get to dummy in ♦s to take the trump finesse. Strangely a trump lead from East, despite giving nothing away, is likely to let 4♠ make! Played by South 4♠ is in trouble on a red suit lead from West and should go off. 3NT is another option and again best played by North – played by South a ♥ lead seals its fate! So plenty of variety on the score sheet this time with plus scores for both sides.

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16	KJT
West	J3
EW	J732
	Q654
8752	A943
Q872	64
AKQ	T85
J9	T832
	Q6
	AKT95
	964
	AK7

It's hard to see EW making anything after West opens 1NT. It's also easy to see how NS could get too high if they don't go for a penalty from 1NTx or 2♠x perhaps which will both probably go 2 off for a juicy +500 for NS. 3NT for NS should go off after the ♥ finesse loses and ♥ contracts have 5 losers too. So those who open the West hand 1NT could easily give a big penalty and those who don't might easily get a plus score when NS push too high. A bad board for the weak NT?

17	95
North	53
None	KQ96
	AK853
KQT42	A863
QJT42	K76
A2	T843
J	97
	J7
	A98
	J75
	QT642

EW can make both 4♥ and 4♠ but there will be some who don't get to game. If North opens 1♣ and South raises to 2♣ (or even 3♣ if playing Inverted Raises) then West won't have a 2 suited bid to show this hand. It would probably be a 2♠ bid over 2♣ and then go for game when partner raises. If North opens 1♦, South will bid 1NT and West should bid 2♦ to show a (usually major) 2 suiter and ought to get to 4♠. Fortune favours the brave in this case and 10 tricks are easy. I suspect most will be in it and they will all score +420. Those who stay in a part score will score badly.

18	Q86
East	93
NS	T943
	KQ52
AT	KJ753
AT7	Q62
QJ876	AK2
A84	JT
	942
	KJ854
	5
	9763

It's hard to see anything other than 3NT by EW on this one. Played by East you will normally get a ♥ lead to your ♥Q, then a ♠ to the ♠10 and ♠Q gives you 12 tricks. It is correct to play the ♠ suit this way since it is the only way you can make 5 tricks when there is ♠Qx in one hand. If West plays 3NT then the ♣K or ♣Q lead may hold it to 9 tricks, a small ♣ lead gives 12 tricks and a red suit lead will likely result in 11 tricks. So holding 3NT to less than 11 tricks will be very good for EW and making 12 tricks will be good for NS.

19	732
South	8753
EW	42
	J965
AT865	J4
T94	KJ
Q	AKJ985
8742	AK3
	KQ9
	AQ62
	T763
	QT

Again it's hard to see EW not playing this in 3NT whatever East opens. Some will open 2NT, some 1♦, the strong ♣ will open 1♣ and there may well be others! But EW should be in 3NT and should really make 10 tricks. This may be a bit lucky in cases where the ♣ suit has been played by the defence but South has only 2 of them. I can see some Souths leading the ♠K and then when declarer wins the ♠A and plays to the ♠J South has to duck to stop 11 or even 12 tricks! A really cute play in this case would be to drop the ♠J under the ♠A, come to the ♣A to lead a ♠ up – that would merit a great score! So I think 3NT+1 will be about average.

20	K8
West	4
All	J832
	KJ9872
AQ7632	T54
J753	KT986
A74	5
	QT53
	J9
	AQ2
	KQT96
	A64

Well Deep Finesse says you make 4♠ on this one but if North leads his ♥ and gets a ♥ ruff that means you have to then fell the ♠K offside! It also says that 4♥ goes off and it will on continual ♣ leads but will otherwise make. For NS there are minor suit contracts and even a minor suit game isn't so bad but is killed by the ♣ split. So I expect a lot of bidding and a split of contracts between EW and NS with probably more EWs in 4♠ (or a few in 4♥) than NSs in 5♣ or 5♦. Anyone making 4♥ or 4♠ will do well but those in 5♣x or 5♦x probably won't with many of the 4♠ contracts going off.

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21	87632
North	
NS	Q97654
	AK
AKQ	95
QT984	32
J	AK82
T976	QJ843
	JT4
	AKJ765
	T3
	52

This could be a horror show for NS. North will probably pass (there may be some Lucas 2♠ openers). If North passes and South opens 2♥ (or 2♦ Multi) then North should pass (even if it is 2♦?) although it looks horrible. If NS try to improve the contract from 2♥ (or 2♦) then they will just dig a deeper hole for themselves! In fact 2♠ by North is quite likely to make since East might well lead the ♦K or ♦A which loses a trick in the suit. 2♦ by South will normally go one off. Any West who decides to bid 2♥ over a Multi 2♦ will not be happy with the outcome. So any plus for NS will be terrific, anything better than +100 will be good for EW.

22	Q986
East	KQ5
EW	QT965
	Q
AK4	JT52
J76	T2
AKJ	7432
T653	KJ7
	73
	A9843
	8
	A9842

It's not clear what is going to happen on this one. If West gets to play 1NT then North is likely to lead a ♦ and that will give 7 tricks with the ♣ position as it is. If NS get to play 2♥ then it may make (Deep Finesse says it can!) although there isn't an obvious winning line. Another one where a plus score will be good but possibly NS are more likely to get one!

23	A5
South	9763
All	J43
	AT76
QT643	92
542	AQJ8
85	AK976
K53	42
	KJ87
	KT
	QT2
	QJ98

It looks like South will open 1NT and East will make a bid – some will bid 2♣ to show ♥ and another, others might bid 2♥ to show ♥ and a minor, others again may have different methods. If South opens 1♣ and North 1♥ then South will likely play 1NT. If South opens 1♠ and North 1NT then East will double and West will probably bid 2♥ hating his partner for doubling! So it seems that most tables will see EW playing in something, most likely 2♦ or 2♥. Neither will make so anyone going down only 1 should do OK out of it. Those NSs in 1NT will also do pretty well since they can make 8 tricks. The magic 200 (or better) for NS scores best.

24	Q3
West	Q9652
None	KJ53
	98
AJ742	9
8	AJT4
T42	96
T742	AKQJ53
	KT865
	K73
	AQ87
	6

If EW play Lucas 2 bids then West might open 2♠ and 5♣ might just about be bid – a great result since 11 tricks are there on a cross ruff, losing only 2 ♦s. If NS play Lucas 2 bids then North might open 2♥ to make life more difficult for EW. Often it will be over to East to open the bidding. However it starts EW will do really well to bid to 5♣. I expect some might get to 3NT which should go off but might on an odd occasion sneak through. Otherwise EW ought to win the auction to play a ♣ part score. So +400 for EW will get a top and any plus for NS will be very good. I predict a lot of +150 scores for EW.

25	T7
North	K962
EW	AQ652
	85
AQ643	
A8	T75
94	KJT873
AQJ9	T632
	KJ9852
	QJ43
	K74

How will the bidding go on this? Well if East passes (some might open 3♦ or a weak 2♦) then South will probably open 1♠. West may pass but many will bid 1NT which North might pass (partner is 3rd in hand) or some may double. Whatever North does, East will most often transfer into ♦s and again North may go quietly or may double. After a double of 3♦ South will certainly be worried and may pull it to 3♥ (or 3♠?). So lots of options in the bidding! If East opens 3♦ then South might pass or might bid 3♠. If he chooses 3♠ then West will lick his lips and double for blood! So in the end it looks like EW will get a plus score ranging from +130 to +300, but I'm sure there will be a wide range of scores on this one.

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26	
East	AQT52
All	8765
	JT84
AQ743	T9
K763	J8
3	KQJT4
AQ7	9652
	KJ8652
	94
	A92
	K3

Despite having the best hand at the table I don't think West will be bidding here. South will open 1♠ which should persuade West to pass, North 1NT and South 2♠ will see another green card from West (and North). It looks pretty terrible but in fact East has no entry (unless South ducks the ♦ lead!) and South can establish a ♣ trick in dummy to add to the 3 red suit tricks plus a ruff or trump trick or two. Deep Finesse suggests 2 off and that would seem about right. There probably won't be much variation in the contract but the number of undertricks will no doubt be different.

27	K9842
South	5
None	T2
	KQ984
53	AQ76
KJ982	7643
Q986	J4
J6	T75
	JT
	AQT
	AK753
	A32

Most Souths will play this one in 3NT after opening 1♦. If West has mentioned ♥s then a black suit might be led and declarer will go after the ♠ suit losing just the 3 tricks. In fact West does better to lead a ♥ into South's tenace since it saves a trick when East wins the ♠Q and plays another ♥! I suppose there may be a few who play 4♠ and when played by South this will make 11 tricks for a great score. But played by North on a ♥ lead it is held to 10 tricks so not as good as 3NT+1. So best for EW is for West to lead a ♥ against 3NT and for NS for South to play 4♠+1.

28	T72
West	Q9642
NS	Q6
	J73
KQ863	J4
AK85	J73
A5	KJ3
AK	Q8654
	A95
	T
	T98742
	T92

Well you have 4 ♠ tricks, 2 ♥s, 3 ♦s and 5 ♣s making a total of 14, but you also have the ♠A to lose so you can't go for the grand slam! Seriously though I would be surprised if anyone bids a slam and if anyone does they will no doubt make it but only with a great deal of luck on their side. Most will play it in 3NT and will probably make 12 tricks with both black suits 3-3 and ♦Qx in front of the ♦KJx. So +490 for EW will be the most common score with anything else scoring well for one side or the other.

29	A3
North	QJ32
All	QT73
	642
K954	Q87
AK854	97
A	J542
QJ9	AT87
	JT62
	T6
	K986
	K53

This is a tricky hand for EW to bid. After 1♥ – 1NT what is West's best option? Playing 4 card majors you could reverse with 2♠ - even though you know partner won't have 4 ♠s it gets over the strength and shape of the hand – and then pass East's 2NT bid since you are about minimum for your bidding. If you play 5 card majors then you might choose not to show your ♠ suit and just raise to 2NT (for some this would show 18-19). So it seems that some will play 2NT and some will no doubt get to 3NT. With not much working for EW in NT the limit will probably be 8 tricks. So a plus for NS will be good as will a plus for EW – those losing out will be the ones in game going off.

30	984
East	5
None	KT874
	AKQ9
AT7	QJ63
AKQJ	9832
932	AQJ
T43	75
	K52
	T764
	65
	J862

This one is likely to be opened and played in 1NT by West. If North takes the line of having a look at dummy by cashing a top ♣ then the defence ought to take the first 4 tricks. Those Norths who lead 4th best of their longest and strongest will be sorry they did after West wraps up 11 tricks! For those EW pairs playing a strong NT West will open 1♣ and raise East's 1♥ to 2♥ if North passes. If North overcalls 1♦ then East will double and raise West's 1♥ to 2♥. Some may press on over 2♥ and a few will no doubt get to 4♥ which as it turns out is a good contract, but many will stay in 2♥. All the declarers in ♥ contracts look certain to make 11 tricks. So I don't think many if any NS pairs will get a plus score and those EWs making game will score best.

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