

Forthcoming Attractions

Edinburgh Congress Trophy/Rayne Cup Qualifier

Multiple Teams of Four, with National (Red) Points, and special prizes for teams in the Silver and Bronze categories. Open to all– teams of four are good fun! Leading teams qualify for the Rayne Cup Final on 25 November 2017.

Wednesdays 1 and 8 November 2017; New Melville Bridge Club, 7pm

Convener: Fiona Greenwood 0131 332 9719 fiona@sbueast.org.uk

Swiss Pairs – Red-pointed

Run on a National League weekend to keep the sharks busy elsewhere

Sunday 19 November 2017, Carlton BC, 1pm

Convener: Julie Choudhury 0131 343 3838 julie@sbueast.org.uk

McGregor Cup

Our Popular **Mixed Pairs**, fostering pre-Christmas spirit. There is a raffle in aid of Junior Bridge, for which prizes will be gratefully received.

Match-point Pairs with duplicated hands across several sections.

Friday 24 November, 2017; New Melville Bridge Club, 7pm

Convener: Anne Perkins 0131 539 6634 anne@sbueast.org.uk

SBU National Pairs

Amended rules: you may play in only one heat and the entry fee has risen to £3 per head. 50% qualify to the District Final on Saturday 20 January, Carlton BC. Heats will be held at various clubs in the District: last year the New Melville (Wed 15/11), Falcon, Dunbar and Carlton.

(Details of how to contact clubs on the East District Website sbueast.org.uk)

The **Final** is on Sunday 22 April

Convener: Anne Perkins 0131 539 6634 anne@sbueast.org.uk

Cowan Cup

Our **District Pairs Championship** has a new format: events with heats in the clubs are no longer successful, so the Cowan Cup will be a one-day event on

Sunday 11 March 2018; Carlton BC, 1pm

Convener: Anne Perkins 0131 539 6634 anne@sbueast.org.uk

Scottish Bridge Union

East District

Simultaneous Pairs

Monday 6th November, 2017

Scottish Women's NS Scorecard

*East/West pairs - if you wish, please score up using this card
(which shows the results of your Scottish team-mates sitting N/S)*

Dear Bridge Player,

Thank you for supporting the 2017 East District Simultaneous Pairs.

We hope you have had an enjoyable evening.

This year's hands are from the Round Robin of the 2012 World Bridge Games in Lille. Scotland's Women's team has a reasonable record in this event, and they qualified for the Knock-out phase in comfort, finishing second in their group. Alas, they met France in the Round of 16. The team was Sheila Adamson & Anne Martin (now Symons); Maida Grant & Sheila Macdonald; and Sam Punch & Liz McGowan, with npc Alex Wilkinson.

I might apologise for persistently using Women's team deals in this event but I do have my reasons! The most persuasive is that I have first-hand knowledge and full records, so that I can choose interesting boards. The other is that the Women's and Senior Teams have consistently out-performed the Open Team, and it is pleasing to publicise Scottish success.

We have included the Scottish scorecards to allow you to compare your results, purely for your own interest and enjoyment. Your club may use any scoring method for its local results, but should then send the results for district-wide scoring. We have decided to use Anna Gudge's excellent Ecats service for the results, so the scoring will be by Match Points this year. Results will appear as they come in on her website: www.Ecatsbridge.com

The East District raises all its funds through competitions, so we are very grateful for your support. We hope you will also play in other ED events we run. Some upcoming events are advertised on the back page and you can get more details from our website: www.sbueast.org.uk

liz@sbueast.org.uk

Liz McGowan

Bd	Cont	By	Rslt	Plus	Minus	Your E/W Score	Your +imps	Your imps	Scotland actual imps	
1-	4♠	N	-1		50					10
2NS	3NT	S	=	600					14	-
3EW	2♠	W	+1		140				8	-
4All	2♦	E	+2		130				5	-
5NS	6♥	N	+1	1460					-	-
6EW	4♥	N	=	420					10	-
7All	4♠	N	=	620					16	-
8-	3♠	E	-1	50					5	-
9EW	3NT	W	+3		690				12	-
10All	2♠	E	-1	100					5	-
11-	4♥	E	+2		480				11	-
12NS	6♦	N	+1	1390					12	
13All	4♠	N	-2		200				7	-
14-	3NT	S	=	400					10	-
15NS	4♠	N	=	620					12	-
16EW	2♠	E	-2	200					8	-
17-	3♠	S	-1		50				9	-
18NS	3NT	W	-	50					10	-
19EW	5♣X	N	-1		100				11	-
20All	3♠	E	-1	100					7	
21NS	3NT	S	=	600					13	-
22EW	2♥	W	=		110				-	5
23All	4♠	N	=	620					10	-
24-	3NT	W	-1	50					10	
25EW	6♠	N	+1	1010					-	-
26All	3NT	N	-1		100				-	12
27-	2♥	S	-1		50				-	3
28NS	4♥	W	-1	50					5	
						Total Imps			210	30
						Difference			180	

Scottish Women's EW Scorecard

*North/South pairs – if you wish, please score up using this card
(which shows the results of your Scottish team-mates sitting E/W)*

Bd	Contr	By	Rslt	Plus	Minus	Your N/S score	Your +imps	Your -imps	Scotland actual imps		
1-	4♠	N	=		420					10	
2NS	4♠	S	-4	400					14	-	
3EW	5♣X	S	-2	500					8	-	
4All	3♠	S	-3	300					5	-	
5NS	6♥	N	+1		1460				-	-	
6EW	4♥	N	-1	50					10	-	
7All	4♥	W	+2	680					16	-	
8-	3♣	N	-3	150					5	-	
9EW	6♦	E	=	1370					12	-	
10All	3♦	N	-1	100					5	-	
11-	6♥	E	=	980					11	-	
12NS	3NT	S	+4		720				12		
13All	4♠X	N	-2	500					7	-	
14-	4♥	S	-1	50					10	-	
15NS	4♠	N	-1	100					12		
16EW	2NT	E	=	120					8	-	
17-	4♥	E	=	420					9	-	
18NS	3NT	E	=	400					10	-	
19EW	4♥	W	=	620					11	-	
20All	5♦	N	-2	200					7	-	
21NS	3NT	S	-2	200					13	-	
22EW	1NT	N	=		90				-	5	
23All	3♠	N	+1		170				10	-	
24-	3NT	W	=	400					10	-	
25EW	6♠	N	+1		1010				-	-	
26All	3NT	N	+1		630				-	12	
27-	4♠	E	-1		50				-	3	
28NS	3♥	W	=	140					5		
									<i>Total Imps</i>	210	30
									<i>Difference</i>	180	

1	♠ KJ8762 ♥ KJ8 ♦ AK ♣ 93	None Vul Dlr North									
♠ 43 ♥ 53 ♦ 854 ♣ JT8652	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A9 ♥ AQT6 ♦ QT9762 ♣ Q
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ QT5 ♥ 9742 ♦ J3 ♣ AK74	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - 1 4 3 S - - 1 4 3 E 2 2 - - - W 2 2 - - -									

A tricky 4♠ for North. If East has overcalled there is a clue that she holds both heart honours, so you might play West for the Ten. Unlucky. The best line on ♣Q lead is to eliminate diamonds by cashing ♠AK before playing trump. East can win the ♠A and get off lead with a spade, but you win in dummy, cash ♣K, and a heart endplays East. It is vital to retain a trump in dummy so that a diamond gives a ruff and discard.

2	♠ T7 ♥ KQ943 ♦ AK72 ♣ 82	NS Vul Dlr East									
♠ J85 ♥ J ♦ Q9865 ♣ T953	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9632 ♥ AT85 ♦ 3 ♣ AK74
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ AKQ4 ♥ 762 ♦ JT4 ♣ QJ6	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - 1 2 1 1 S - 1 2 1 2 E 2 - - - - W 2 - - - -									

In the match against Egypt Scotland's NS reached a normal enough 3NT. West led ♦6, and careful application of the Rule of 11 saw declarer cover with dummy's 7, which duly held the trick. Declarer crossed to a spade to repeat the diamond finesse, and East discarded a spade, giving 4 spade tricks to go with 4 diamonds and a heart. This is a bad deal for the 5-3 heart fit, where there are 3 trump losers to add to the top clubs. Egypt actually reached 4♠ after a 4-card overcall. That played even worse: -4.

3	♠ 64 ♥ AJ8743 ♦ J74 ♣ T8	EW Vul Dlr South									
♠ KT875 ♥ K6 ♦ Q98 ♣ Q96	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AJ92 ♥ QT52 ♦ 632 ♣ K5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q3 ♥ 9 ♦ AKT5 ♣ AJ7432	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 2 1 - - S 2 2 1 - - E - - - 2 2 W - - - 2 2									

West's hand is not a very pretty 1♠ overcall, but some things just have to be done. Scotland's NS pair uncovered their misfit and sold out to 3♠. Sadly they did not find the heart ruff that beats that contract. Canada's South was more ambitious, bidding all the way to 5♣. This contract was doubled on general principles, and declarer had to lose 2 spades and 2 trump tricks for a pleasing +500.

4	♠ 74 ♥ 8654 ♦ 65 ♣ AK964	All Vul Dlr West									
♠ KT62 ♥ KQJT ♦ KQT ♣ 75	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 ♥ A ♦ J9742 ♣ QJT832
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ AQJ953 ♥ 9732 ♦ A83 ♣ -	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - - - - S - - - - - E 2 3 - - 2 W 2 3 - - 2									

West looks a bit good for a weak no-trump, so strong no-trumps might upgrade. After 1♥ – 1NT the English South was tempted to bid 3♠, but this was not the moment. East did not find a re-opening double, but she won ♥A at trick 1 and returned a diamond. With no way to reach dummy's clubs declarer had to lose 4 hearts, 2 trump and a diamond. The 'festering' club in the other room allowed South to overcall at the 1-level, and when partner offered no support she sold out to a diamond part score.

5	♠Q	NS Vul										
	♥AKT97	Dlr North										
	♦KQ6											
	♣AQ64											
♠K73	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠JT98654
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥42	♥Q5											
♦J9743	♦8											
♣872	♣JT5											
	♠A2	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥J863	N 7 5 7 1 7										
	♦AT52	S 7 5 7 1 7										
	♣K93	E - - - -										
		W - - - -										

7	♠KQT532	All Vul										
	♥6	Dlr South										
	♦T4											
	♣T742											
♠987	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠J
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥KQ98	♥J75432											
♦AQ97	♦2											
♣J8	♣AK965											
	♠A64	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥AT	N - 2 - 3 - 1										
	♦KJ8653	S - 2 - 3 1										
	♣Q3	E 2 - 5 - -										
		W 2 - 5 - -										

25	♠AKJ872	EW Vul										
	♥AKT95	Dlr North										
	♦9											
	♣K											
♠43	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠T9
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥J73	♥84											
♦KT87	♦A632											
♣QJ98	♣T7652											
	♠Q65	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥Q62	N 1 2 6 6 5										
	♦QJ54	S 1 2 6 6 5										
	♣A43	E - - - -										
		W - - - -										

27	♠K942	Love All										
	♥976	Dlr South										
	♦A72											
	♣JT9											
♠763	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠AQJT5
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥AQ	♥84											
♦863	♦KQ9											
♣87632	♣KQ4											
	♠8	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥KJT532	N - - 1 - -										
	♦JT54	S - - 1 - -										
	♣A5	E 4 1 - 3 1										
		W 4 1 - 3 1										

Whether South makes a limit raise in hearts, or a game-forcing one, North will be off and running. Roman Keycard Blackwood should tell her that the Queen of trump is missing, and she will settle in a sensible 6♥. Those not playing RKC may reach the Grand, and play with the odds to make it. Playing for the drop is more tempting if East believes that you should lead a trump against a Grand Slam.....

Scotland's first match was against the Auld Enemy, and this deal sealed a 35-13 imp win. After 1♦ - 1♠ the Scottish East showed her 2-suiter with 2NT and West bid 4♥. This contract, never difficult, was made easier when North led a diamond. The Scottish North made a weak jump shift, and bid on to 4♣ when partner raised. This looks easy to beat, but East cashed just one club before switching to her diamond. West tried to give her a ruff, and the second club loser disappeared.

What should South respond to 1♠? For those playing Acol, but with 2NT as a good 4-card raise, 2♦ is the only choice. North rebids 2♥ - forcing after the 2-over-1 response - and when South jumps to 3♣ North can take charge with whatever form of Blackwood the partnership has agreed. 2-over-1 players must respond 1NT, but if North rebids 3♥ they can catch up with a 4♣ cue-bid. North may imagine that hearts are agreed, but South can convert later.

If South opens a Weak 2♥ North may up the ante with a raise. East has a lot of points but poor distribution, so 3♠ is enough, and West is under no pressure to bid on. If North passes East may feel 2♠ is inadequate, but stronger actions risk getting too high. Kenya actually sold out to 2♥! Scotland got too high in 4♣, though a few pairs made game when South led a helpful minor instead of an unhelpful heart.

6	♠K8754	EW Vul										
	♥4	Dlr East										
	♦AKT742											
	♣Q											
♠QT9	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠J62
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥KQJ8753	♥AT											
♦865	♦Q9											
♣-	♣AK9853											
	♠A3	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥962	N - 4 - 3 -										
	♦J3	S - 4 - 3 -										
	♣JT7642	E - - 2 - -										
		W - - 2 - -										

8	♠T92	None Vul										
	♥K7543	Dlr West										
	♦T9											
	♣JT4											
♠6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠AQJ8743
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥JT982	♥Q											
♦KJ84	♦32											
♣952	♣KQ6											
	♠K5	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥A6	N - 1 1 - -										
	♦AQ765	S - 1 1 - -										
	♣A873	E - - - 2 -										
		W - - - 2 -										

26	♠KQ	All Vul										
	♥AK6	Dlr East										
	♦A53											
	♣98653											
♠A865	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠T974
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥754	♥JT2											
♦T87	♦KJ9642											
♣KQ4	♣-											
	♠J32	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥Q983	N 4 - 3 1 2										
	♦Q	S 4 - 3 1 2										
	♣AJT72	E - 1 - - -										
		W - 1 - - -										

28	♠J732	NS Vul										
	♥95	Dlr West										
	♦7432											
	♣T96											
♠T54	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N			W	E			S		♠A9
N												
W	E											
	S											
♥AT82	♥7643											
♦QJ9	♦AKT6											
♣AJ3	♣852											
	♠KQ86	♠♦♥♠N										
	♥KQJ	N - - - 1 -										
	♦85	S - - - 1 -										
	♣KQ74	E 1 3 3 - 2										
		W 1 3 3 - 2										

A wild board against Egypt. After 1♣ - 1♥ North may show a 2-suiter, but South is unlikely to show much enthusiasm. Both tables sold to 4♥. North failed to envisage partner's ♠A, and 3 rounds of diamonds allowed declarer to ruff high and pitch spades on clubs. If anyone 'saves' in 5♦ they are likely to make when spades are 3-3 and ♦Q drops. The winning defence is for East to cash her Aces, then play ♣K on which West discards a second spade.

What should West open in third seat? The hand is too good for a 3-level pre-empt, and you hold the boss suit, so 1♠ seems best. South must now choose between 2♦ and 1NT, both fraught with danger. Scores ranged from 4♠X-2 to 5♦X-5... Scotland defended 3♠ accurately in one room, and 3♣ in the other (South decided her best choice of overcall was an Unusual 2NT.) Hard to find a double!

An unlucky board for NS, on paper at least. They have game-going values, and most reached 3NT. The fate of this contract depends on the opening lead: a 4th highest diamond is not a success. Declarer crosses to a top heart to lead clubs, spots the bad break, wins ♣A and knocks out ♠A for 9 tricks. A killing ♦K is an unlikely lead, but a major suit succeeds when West switches to diamonds. Where East bids diamonds NS may reach an unlucky 5♣.

EW should buy this part score hand, but this is not the time to be optimistic, the hands are too balanced for a low HCP game. Clubs lie well, but there is no useful discard on the fourth diamond, so 4♥ is simply unmakeable. If West opens a weak 1NT and East uses Stayman South will probably be silenced, but after 1♣ - 1♦ she may be tempted to speak. EWs given the opportunity to double 3♠ will be rewarded with a nice 500.

21	♠Q7 ♥KQ9 ♦K86432 ♣T8	NS Vul Dlr North							
	♠T6532 ♥AT2 ♦5 ♣K763	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠AJ8</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥7643</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦QJT97</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣5</td></tr> </table>	N	♠AJ8	W	♥7643	E	♦QJT97	S
N	♠AJ8								
W	♥7643								
E	♦QJT97								
S	♣5								
	♠K94 ♥J85 ♦A ♣AQJ942	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N 4 1 - - 1</td></tr> <tr><td>S 4 1 - 1 1</td></tr> <tr><td>E - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N 4 1 - - 1	S 4 1 - 1 1	E - - - - -	W - - - - -		
♠♦♥♣N									
N 4 1 - - 1									
S 4 1 - 1 1									
E - - - - -									
W - - - - -									

23	♠AQ75 ♥854 ♦J54 ♣873	Game All Dlr South							
	♠K2 ♥KQT976 ♦3 ♣JT94	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠T43</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥A32</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦QT76</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣K52</td></tr> </table>	N	♠T43	W	♥A32	E	♦QT76	S
N	♠T43								
W	♥A32								
E	♦QT76								
S	♣K52								
	♠J986 ♥J ♦AK982 ♣AQ6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N 1 4 - 5 1</td></tr> <tr><td>S 1 4 - 5 1</td></tr> <tr><td>E - - 2 - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - - 2 - -</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N 1 4 - 5 1	S 1 4 - 5 1	E - - 2 - -	W - - 2 - -		
♠♦♥♣N									
N 1 4 - 5 1									
S 1 4 - 5 1									
E - - 2 - -									
W - - 2 - -									

9	♠8642 ♥JT6 ♦A ♣QJT72	EW Vul Dlr North							
	♠JT73 ♥A7 ♦J85 ♣AK86	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠AKQ</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥Q54</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦KQ9642</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣9</td></tr> </table>	N	♠AKQ	W	♥Q54	E	♦KQ9642	S
N	♠AKQ								
W	♥Q54								
E	♦KQ9642								
S	♣9								
	♠95 ♥K9832 ♦T73 ♣543	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E 2 6 1 6 6</td></tr> <tr><td>W 2 5 1 4 2</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N - - - - -	S - - - - -	E 2 6 1 6 6	W 2 5 1 4 2		
♠♦♥♣N									
N - - - - -									
S - - - - -									
E 2 6 1 6 6									
W 2 5 1 4 2									

11	♠87 ♥J92 ♦KJ54 ♣8542	Love All Dlr South							
	♠AQ42 ♥AKT8 ♦63 ♣AKQ	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠J6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥Q764</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦AQ987</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣97</td></tr> </table>	N	♠J6	W	♥Q764	E	♦AQ987	S
N	♠J6								
W	♥Q764								
E	♦AQ987								
S	♣97								
	♠KT953 ♥53 ♦T2 ♣JT63	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E 4 6 7 5 5</td></tr> <tr><td>W 4 6 7 4 5</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N - - - - -	S - - - - -	E 4 6 7 5 5	W 4 6 7 4 5		
♠♦♥♣N									
N - - - - -									
S - - - - -									
E 4 6 7 5 5									
W 4 6 7 4 5									

NS are likely to reach 3NT. If West is on lead a low spade will prove effective provided East plays ♠J, saving the Ace to beat the Queen. Declarer should duck, but cannot keep West off lead so must go down. If East leads ♦Q declarer will cross to hand in hearts to take the club finesse. West should duck the first round, then switch to a spade when she wins ♣K. North cannot get to hand to cash ♦K, her 9th trick

Very few pairs reached 4♣ on this deal, so Scotland gained 10imps. After 1♦ - 2♥ - Pass - 3♥ South boldly doubled, and North, with a maximum Pass, bid 4♣. If South is forced to ruff hearts there is a trump loser, so careful play is required for the overtrick: draw 2 rounds of trump with the finesse, ruff your last heart, cash the ♦A, then lead towards the ♦J to pick up a 4-1 break in either hand. East may win and play a club, but you can ruff a diamond and return to ♣A to discard your last loser as East ruffs

After 1♦ - 1♠ - 3♦ Scotland sailed into 6♦. One of those slams: as it happens with South on lead there is no defence, but if North had ♥K there would be no play. Declarer was not tested when the Polish South actually led a spade (generally a good idea to make an attacking lead against a slam). It was easy to draw trump and take two pitches on ♣K and the fourth spade. ♥J lead from North actually beats the Polish 3NT, but ♣Q was too tempting.

Many believe that the 20-22 range for a 2NT opener is too wide. This particular 22 count is probably worth upgrading. If West shows 22-23, or 23-24 East will uncover the heart fit and make a slam try. 6♥ is a pretty good contract that requires one of two finesses and a reasonable trump break. It was bid at about half the tables, but not by our Jordanian opponents. DF makes 7♥, but only the wildest optimists will bid that.

22	♠Q2 ♥KQ6 ♦AK852 ♣AT6	EW Vul Dlr East							
	♠KT ♥T98743 ♦QT ♣KQ8	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠A9743</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥A</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦9764</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣J75</td></tr> </table>	N	♠A9743	W	♥A	E	♦9764	S
N	♠A9743								
W	♥A								
E	♦9764								
S	♣J75								
	♠J865 ♥J52 ♦J3 ♣9432	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E - 1 1 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - 1 1 1 -</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N - - - - -	S - - - - -	E - 1 1 1 -	W - 1 1 1 -		
♠♦♥♣N									
N - - - - -									
S - - - - -									
E - 1 1 1 -									
W - 1 1 1 -									

24	♠954 ♥JT87 ♦A972 ♣K3	Love All Dlr West							
	♠Q873 ♥A953 ♦KQJ8 ♣Q	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠AJ2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥K42</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦T</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣AT9764</td></tr> </table>	N	♠AJ2	W	♥K42	E	♦T	S
N	♠AJ2								
W	♥K42								
E	♦T								
S	♣AT9764								
	♠KT6 ♥Q6 ♦6543 ♣J852	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E 4 2 3 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>W 4 2 3 4 3</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N - - - - -	S - - - - -	E 4 2 3 4 3	W 4 2 3 4 3		
♠♦♥♣N									
N - - - - -									
S - - - - -									
E 4 2 3 4 3									
W 4 2 3 4 3									

10	♠K6 ♥KQT ♦8765432 ♣T	Game All Dlr East							
	♠A2 ♥A865 ♦AQT ♣QJ93	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠Q9853</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥J973</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦9</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣874</td></tr> </table>	N	♠Q9853	W	♥J973	E	♦9	S
N	♠Q9853								
W	♥J973								
E	♦9								
S	♣874								
	♠JT74 ♥42 ♦KJ ♣AK652	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N - 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E 1 - 2 1 2</td></tr> <tr><td>W 1 - 2 2 2</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N - 2 - - -	S - 2 - - -	E 1 - 2 1 2	W 1 - 2 2 2		
♠♦♥♣N									
N - 2 - - -									
S - 2 - - -									
E 1 - 2 1 2									
W 1 - 2 2 2									

12	♠T ♥T6 ♦KQ652 ♣AJ654	NS Vul Dlr West							
	♠KJ643 ♥J75 ♦73 ♣T82	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>♠Q52</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>♥98432</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>♦J4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>♣973</td></tr> </table>	N	♠Q52	W	♥98432	E	♦J4	S
N	♠Q52								
W	♥98432								
E	♦J4								
S	♣973								
	♠A987 ♥AKQ ♦AT98 ♣KQ	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠♦♥♣N</td></tr> <tr><td>N 7 7 4 4 7</td></tr> <tr><td>S 7 7 4 4 7</td></tr> <tr><td>E - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠♦♥♣N	N 7 7 4 4 7	S 7 7 4 4 7	E - - - - -	W - - - - -		
♠♦♥♣N									
N 7 7 4 4 7									
S 7 7 4 4 7									
E - - - - -									
W - - - - -									

Spain played 1NT by North. Even if West bids hearts East may not lead the singleton ♥A. A spade lead and continuation establishes a winner in dummy and gives time to establish a long club. Somehow the Spanish East reached 2♥ (an ugly 2♥ opener will surely be overcalled with 2NT...). To beat that North must lead ♦AK and another for South to ruff with ♥J. This defence was not obvious either, and Spain secured a double partscore swing.

West opened with her system choice for a 4441, and rebid 2NT over the 2♣ response. Against 3NT North led ♥J. It is essential to duck, then win ♥K on the second round. South ducks ♦T, but a spade towards hand establishes 3 spade tricks while creating an entry to clear diamonds. The Hold Up means South cannot attack the heart entry when she wins the spade. Guadeloupe overlooked that play and lost 10imps.

A partscore hand where the auction might start Pass - 1♣ - 1NT. Some Norths may bid a nonforcing 2♦, and buy the contract, but more likely East will compete with 2♠. If North passes East can use Stayman to escape into a makeable major suit partscore in hearts. Kenya tried 2♠ in one room, 3♦ in the other, and Scotland picked up 5imps for defeating both of these ugly contracts.

A balanced 22-count with no card lower than a 7! Again, worth an upgrade to 23. If North can show a minor 2-suiter, perhaps by starting with 3♠, it should be possible to bid the Grand Slam. Scotland languished in 6♦ against Guadeloupe and were rather surprised to gain 13imps when opponents were the only pair to miss slam altogether. Most matches were flat in 7♦, though 7NT looks tempting.

13	♠AKT7642 ♥4 ♦KJ98 ♣7	All Vul Dir North				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠Q983 ♥AQT3 ♦AT63 ♣5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠J ♥J9862 ♦52 ♣AKT32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠5 ♥K75 ♦Q74 ♣QJ9864</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 2 - E 1 - 4 - 2 W 1 - 4 - 2</td> </tr> </table>	♠Q983 ♥AQT3 ♦AT63 ♣5	N W E S	♠J ♥J9862 ♦52 ♣AKT32	♠5 ♥K75 ♦Q74 ♣QJ9864	
♠Q983 ♥AQT3 ♦AT63 ♣5	N W E S	♠J ♥J9862 ♦52 ♣AKT32				
♠5 ♥K75 ♦Q74 ♣QJ9864		♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 2 - E 1 - 4 - 2 W 1 - 4 - 2				

15	♠K9876 ♥Q9 ♦J84 ♣KQ7	NS Vul Dir South				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠J43 ♥KT2 ♦K9 ♣A9542</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠Q ♥743 ♦Q6532 ♣JT63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠AT52 ♥AJ865 ♦AT7 ♣8</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - 2 3 4 4 S - 3 3 4 4 E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -</td> </tr> </table>	♠J43 ♥KT2 ♦K9 ♣A9542	N W E S	♠Q ♥743 ♦Q6532 ♣JT63	♠AT52 ♥AJ865 ♦AT7 ♣8	
♠J43 ♥KT2 ♦K9 ♣A9542	N W E S	♠Q ♥743 ♦Q6532 ♣JT63				
♠AT52 ♥AJ865 ♦AT7 ♣8		♠♦♥♣ N N - 2 3 4 4 S - 3 3 4 4 E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -				

17	♠KT932 ♥J3 ♦QJ82 ♣85	None Vul Dir North				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠8 ♥Q976 ♦T75 ♣A7643</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠Q74 ♥AT85 ♦AK93 ♣KQ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠AJ65 ♥K42 ♦64 ♣JT92</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 1 - E 3 4 5 - 1 W 5 4 5 - 1</td> </tr> </table>	♠8 ♥Q976 ♦T75 ♣A7643	N W E S	♠Q74 ♥AT85 ♦AK93 ♣KQ	♠AJ65 ♥K42 ♦64 ♣JT92	
♠8 ♥Q976 ♦T75 ♣A7643	N W E S	♠Q74 ♥AT85 ♦AK93 ♣KQ				
♠AJ65 ♥K42 ♦64 ♣JT92		♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 1 - E 3 4 5 - 1 W 5 4 5 - 1				

19	♠QT8 ♥T ♦A2 ♣AKQ9853	EW Vul Dir South				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠K52 ♥AK875 ♦KT ♣J74</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠9764 ♥QJ32 ♦QJ843 ♣-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠AJ3 ♥964 ♦9765 ♣T62</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N 4 - - - 2 S 4 - - - 2 E - 3 4 2 - W - 3 4 2 -</td> </tr> </table>	♠K52 ♥AK875 ♦KT ♣J74	N W E S	♠9764 ♥QJ32 ♦QJ843 ♣-	♠AJ3 ♥964 ♦9765 ♣T62	
♠K52 ♥AK875 ♦KT ♣J74	N W E S	♠9764 ♥QJ32 ♦QJ843 ♣-				
♠AJ3 ♥964 ♦9765 ♣T62		♠♦♥♣ N N 4 - - - 2 S 4 - - - 2 E - 3 4 2 - W - 3 4 2 -				

Another deal from the English match. The Scottish East used Michaels over North's 1♠ and West bid the heart game. When North persisted with 4♠ West doubled. The defence was straightforward: 3 Aces and two trump tricks brought in 500. The English East did not fancy a vulnerable overcall, and our North was allowed to play 4♠ undoubled.

Most will play 4♠ by North. East may choose ♠J lead as a safe option – not this time. When West won ♠A declarer had 2 discards for dummy's diamonds and could afford a trump loser. The Scottish East tested declarer with a diamond lead. She had to duck, and West won and returned a diamond. Now it was essential to start trump with ♠A, note the fall of ♠Q, and apply Restricted Choice, finessing against West's ♠J. Too tough for Guadeloupe.

A tricky 4♥ for EW. Where East, playing 4-card majors, opens 1♥, she will probably receive a club lead and can tackle trump by leading towards ♥Q. Those who have to open 1♦ will find themselves putting down dummy, and West will likely get a spade lead, forcing her to ruff the second round and making the contract more awkward. Hopefully most will scramble home.

How high will North go over 1♥? Our heroine went with the full-blooded 5♣ overcall. West re-opened with a double, and East passed despondently. There were 3 inevitable losers. The Spanish North overcalled 2♠, but gave up when the Scots bid to 4♥. Dummy's club void meant there were just 3 losers. The field played in part score, one way or another, so bold EW pairs will score well.

14	♠AK5 ♥J93 ♦QT82 ♣T93	None Vul Dir East				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠JT63 ♥T64 ♦765 ♣A87</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠9874 ♥82 ♦AJ9 ♣KJ62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠Q2 ♥AKQ75 ♦K43 ♣Q54</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N 2 3 4 1 3 S 2 3 4 1 3 E - - - - - W - - - - -</td> </tr> </table>	♠JT63 ♥T64 ♦765 ♣A87	N W E S	♠9874 ♥82 ♦AJ9 ♣KJ62	♠Q2 ♥AKQ75 ♦K43 ♣Q54	
♠JT63 ♥T64 ♦765 ♣A87	N W E S	♠9874 ♥82 ♦AJ9 ♣KJ62				
♠Q2 ♥AKQ75 ♦K43 ♣Q54		♠♦♥♣ N N 2 3 4 1 3 S 2 3 4 1 3 E - - - - - W - - - - -				

16	♠J974 ♥KT965 ♦T6 ♣83	EW Vul Dir West				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠A5 ♥J873 ♦83 ♣KQ654</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠K8632 ♥Q4 ♦Q97 ♣A72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠QT ♥A2 ♦AKJ542 ♣JT9</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - 2 1 1 - S - 2 1 1 - E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -</td> </tr> </table>	♠A5 ♥J873 ♦83 ♣KQ654	N W E S	♠K8632 ♥Q4 ♦Q97 ♣A72	♠QT ♥A2 ♦AKJ542 ♣JT9	
♠A5 ♥J873 ♦83 ♣KQ654	N W E S	♠K8632 ♥Q4 ♦Q97 ♣A72				
♠QT ♥A2 ♦AKJ542 ♣JT9		♠♦♥♣ N N - 2 1 1 - S - 2 1 1 - E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -				

18	♠KJ653 ♥T32 ♦T9653 ♣2	NS Vul Dir East				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠AQ72 ♥K ♦QJ7 ♣A8653</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠98 ♥J9875 ♦AK8 ♣QJ7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠T4 ♥AQ64 ♦42 ♣KT942</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 1 - S - - - 1 - E 2 - 1 - 2 W 2 1 1 - 2</td> </tr> </table>	♠AQ72 ♥K ♦QJ7 ♣A8653	N W E S	♠98 ♥J9875 ♦AK8 ♣QJ7	♠T4 ♥AQ64 ♦42 ♣KT942	
♠AQ72 ♥K ♦QJ7 ♣A8653	N W E S	♠98 ♥J9875 ♦AK8 ♣QJ7				
♠T4 ♥AQ64 ♦42 ♣KT942		♠♦♥♣ N N - - - 1 - S - - - 1 - E 2 - 1 - 2 W 2 1 1 - 2				

20	♠A ♥AQ8754 ♦KQT54 ♣8	All Vul Dir West				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠Q43 ♥KT6 ♦J63 ♣Q743</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N W E S</td> <td>♠K9765 ♥J2 ♦A7 ♣A962</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠JT82 ♥93 ♦982 ♣KJT5</td> <td></td> <td>♠♦♥♣ N N - 3 3 - 1 S - 3 3 - 1 E 1 - - 1 - W 1 - - 1 -</td> </tr> </table>	♠Q43 ♥KT6 ♦J63 ♣Q743	N W E S	♠K9765 ♥J2 ♦A7 ♣A962	♠JT82 ♥93 ♦982 ♣KJT5	
♠Q43 ♥KT6 ♦J63 ♣Q743	N W E S	♠K9765 ♥J2 ♦A7 ♣A962				
♠JT82 ♥93 ♦982 ♣KJT5		♠♦♥♣ N N - 3 3 - 1 S - 3 3 - 1 E 1 - - 1 - W 1 - - 1 -				

Scotland ignored the 5-3 heart fit to play in 3NT, often best when the shorter trump hand has no ruffing values. Here 9 tricks are easy when opponents cannot cash 4 clubs. Deep Finesse makes 4♥, but no human did. If opponents do not help out by opening up clubs you need to discard a diamond on the third spade, then establish a long diamond. Dummy entries are limited, but an extra entry can be created by finessing ♥9. Too tough for Canada.

East is likely to open 1♠ in third seat, and West will make a negative double of South's 2♦ overcall. Egypt settled in 2♠, which played rather badly: repeated red suit leads led to 2 down. The Scottish East, playing strong no-trump, preferred 2NT rather than rebid the emaciated spades. The defence might make six diamonds and two hearts for 3 down, but when South conceded an early diamond East had 8 tricks.

Normal to reach 3NT, tough to make it. The Chinese Taipei West got a spade lead, and ducked the second spade from South, but that was her fifth loser. Our West got a heart lead, and played clubs, negotiating 3 tricks there in spite of the bad break. South tried to cash hearts instead of switching to a spade, and the contact snuck home. Not an easy hand for the defence: 3NT made at about half the tables in Scotland's section.

A difficult deal. After Pass - 1♥ - 1♠ the Scottish South passed, West raised, North showed her distribution with 3♦ and East bid 3♠ in tempo. 3 rounds of hearts allowed a diamond discard as South ruffed with her trump trick, and East escaped for -1. The Egyptian NS were more ambitious, reaching 5♦-2. 4♥ was let through a few times: presumably West played ♠Q at trick 1 and the defence could not keep declarer out of dummy.