

WORCESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Pro-Am event 9th April 2018 Hand Commentary



We hope everyone enjoyed the event and, hopefully, learned something. Here is a commentary on the hands. If you go to www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire and click on "Results" you'll be able to view your results alongside this commentary. Note that the suits are shown below in their natural order, spades at the top and clubs at the bottom.

At the end of the commentary, we suggest a few other events that might interest you and we hope to see you again at one or more of these.

<u>1</u>	AKQJ543
North	KJ9
None	92
	K
T86	9
62	T543
Q874	JT63
AT65	Q872
	72
	AQ87
	AK5
	J943

A fairly easy one to start with (if you have the benefit of seeing both hands!) North will open 1♠ (though may even strain to open a strong 2♠) and, in the absence of any system agreements, 3NT is a reasonable response from South. North might then just take a chance on 6♠. A more advanced approach (perhaps best left to the Pros?) would be along the lines of 1♠ – 2♣ – 3♠ (forcing) but then South is a bit stuck. Some of the possible sequences involving cue bids showing controls might get a bit murky now so

perhaps best to stick to the simple approach! Having said all this, only two pairs reached 6♠ and so it's probably not that easy!

<u>2</u>	T82
East	973
NS	8
	KJ9765
AQ43	J965
Q2	J6
QJ76	AK542
T84	AQ
	K7
	AKT854
	T93
	32

This was the hand that Terry and Ian discussed so I'll say little about the bidding except that, as Terry said, it's important to locate the major suit fit. The interesting part is the play of the trump suit. Playing a small ♠ towards the AQ and finessing the queen is obviously right. The question now is whether to cash the ace and try to drop the doubleton king or to lead the jack, covered by the king, trying to pin the doubleton 10 in the North hand – so playing South for Kxx and North for 10x. I'm not sure which is the best

line but our declarer got it right – well done

<u>3</u>	J8
South	752
EW	874
	AT432
75	962
AKT9	J83
KJT2	A93
KQ9	J875
	AKQT43
	Q64
	Q65
	6

South will open 1♠ and West will double for takedown. East will say 2♣ and South will probably rebid 2♠s. That's where the auction is likely to end although seven tricks is the limit on best defence. If West does decide to bid 3♣ (superficially unwisely!), North may well try a double – to his cost because it makes.....

<u>4</u>	T9732
West	AK94
All	6
	653
AJ	Q8654
J8	53
AQJ873	9
JT2	AKQ84
	K
	QT762
	KT542
	97

This is likely to start 1♦ – P – 1♠ – P – 2♦ – P - ? East would like to bid again to show the ♣ suit but isn't really strong enough. If he or she does, West will probably say 3♠ and there matters should rest.

<u>5</u>	A
North	KT92
NS	AK9653
	T6
Q72	JT94
8654	J73
J842	QT7
87	K32
	K8653
	AQ
	AQJ954

Again, a hand that Terry and Ian discussed. Our bidding went 1♦ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠ – 3NT and my partner did very well to go on at this stage with a quantitative raise to 4NT. Sadly, I wasn't up to it and passed..... 6NT is, of course, an excellent contract.

<u>6</u>	85
East	KJ62
EW	Q97
	T873
KJ76	AQT43
A94	53
KJT6	A
Q9	AKJ65
	92
	QT87
	85432
	42

East is likely to open 1♠ (though I confess I would open 1♣ and rebid 2♠). In the absence of any systemic agreement, West is worth 4♠ and now East will proceed to slam. The hands fit well and East may work out that the ♥ losers in the West hand can be discarded on winning ♣s so that the ♥ loser in the East hand can be ruffed on dummy. Well done to then pairs who managed to bid the grand.

7	5
South	AT9832
All	K5
	JT94
Q973	JT642
KQ	6
T732	Q964
753	AK6
	AK8
	J754
	AJ8
	Q82

Ten tricks making round the room with two ♣s and a ♥ loser. Lest anyone wonder how we managed to only play in two, I regret to have to admit that I played South on the board for some reason and also managed to miscount my points, opening a 12-14 no-trump on my 15 count (!!!). Partner sensibly signed off in 2♥. Sorry partner!

8	Q4
West	KQT652
None	6
	AKQ4
AJT32	875
A3	J98
A85	KQ732
765	92
	K96
	74
	JT94
	JT83

Most would open 1♥ on the North hand and East-West will compete in ♠s after East overcalls 1♠. Even if it goes 1♥ – P – P, West should protect, probably with 1NT or a takeout double. Even playing a partscore as East-West scores well, despite missing game.

9	96
North	AKT54
EW	QJT85
	J
AT4	KJ732
J63	Q972
A63	42
KQ52	A3
	Q85
	8
	K97
	T98764

West is likely to open 1♠ and North will say 2♥. East is worth 2♠ but North will say either 3♣ or 3♥. Both contracts require declarer to take a view as to whether West has Ax in ♥s or AJx (and so a finesse of the ♥ 10 is needed against the jack. Since I owned up to my wrong view in the discussion afterwards, I'll draw a veil over that here (I played a ♥ to the ten and in due course suffered a ♣ ruff).....

10	852
East	QJ5
All	A6
	JT987
AK96	Q
94	AK832
T83	KQJ95
Q654	K2
	JT743
	T76
	742
	A3

Again, one that Terry and Ian discussed afterwards. The bidding may take you to 4♥ or 3NT. What is interesting is the play in 3NT if West is declarer. On the lead of the ♣J, the winning play, which is probably anti-percentage, is to duck in the East hand. There is then nothing that South can do to set up North's ♣s. It's a very hard game sometimes....

<u>11</u>	K9852
South	KJ97
None	K93
	T
	JT6
A3	8642
Q87642	JT
A8732	KQ94
	AQ743
	QT5
	A5
	J65

A solid 4♠ which everyone reached. 5♣ is an excellent sacrifice, though only one pair reached it. Over 1♠, West is likely to say 2♦. North 4♠ and when it comes back to West, he might try 5♣ if he's brave. If the Unusual No Trump convention is in use, West could overcall 1♠ with 2NT showing both minors and then the sacrifice is likely to be found.

<u>12</u>	AQJ
West	KQJ3
NS	A95
	KQ9
8765	K942
72	A98
QJ8	43
J642	A853
	T3
	T654
	KT762
	T7

North will open 2NT and South may choose to use Stayman 3♣ to see if there is a 4-4 ♥ fit, intending to settle for 3NT if there isn't. In this case there is and 4♥ is an easy make. I certainly wouldn't criticise any South who passed 2NT, though. A 3 count opposite a 20-22 hand isn't certain to add up to the 25 points required for game and the five card ♦ suit may not be enough to compensate for a shortage of points.

<u>13</u>	AQT9
North	K7
All	4
	QJT972
K8652	4
8	QT
KJ76	AQ9832
654	AK83
	J73
	AJ965432
	T5

North should open 1♣ and East is then worth a strongish jump overcall of 2♦. Which leaves South wondering what to do! A good question to ask is what do you call an eight card suit and the right answer is usually, "Trumps". So 4♥ is probably the best call now (indeed, slam is only on a finesse). An adventurous West will say 5♦ but North or South will still probably say 5♥ (even though beating 5♦ doubled by three is the best theoretical result).

<u>14</u>	JT4
East	K9
None	9
	AKQT763
K98653	Q7
J83	AT62
AK3	QJ752
8	42
	A2
	Q754
	T864
	J95

West will open 1♠ in third position and North will probably say 2♣. East is worth 2♦ but South will compete with 3♣ and West may well bid 3♦. However, North's 7 card suit will persuade him to say 4♣ and there matters should rest.

FINALLY!

Lastly, but most importantly, a big “Thank You” to all the Ams for coming out and braving something which to some of you would have been a bit new. Also to the Pros for supporting the event.

Obviously, your club or group will be your natural base for playing and that should be a source of support and, in many cases, further experience and learning.

In addition, there are a number of other events that both our County Association and other Counties run that may be of interest. Details can usually be found on the County website (www.bridgewebs.com/Worcestershire) but if you can't find them just drop me an email and I'll try to point you in the right direction.

Chairman's Cup. This is restricted to players with less than five years experience and is held on a Wednesday evening (2nd May). We've included details in the same email as this commentary. EBU membership is not a requirement.

The Irene Allen and Richard Lewis Trophies. These events are held on a Sunday in October and cater for a wider range of abilities than the Chairman's Cup – The Irene Allen is restricted to players below the rank of EBU Regional Master and the Richard Lewis to those below the rank of Master. A nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon with the added attraction of a nice late lunch! EBU membership is not a requirement.

The Leagues. Five teams-of-four matches played over the season in people's houses. Again, a sociable way to spend a few evenings and get to know other bridge players from other clubs. Typically people will form teams with other members of their clubs or groups but if you'd like us to try to find team mates, please contact the league secretary, Sue Lane, on 01684 561308. EBU membership is not a requirement for the No-Fear Division.

The Malvern Congress. Held in October in, as you would obviously expect, Worcester (!!). This is a two-day event, attracting players from all over the country. However, we run a No-Fear Section for the less experienced players and this usually runs on the Saturday afternoon or evening.

Café Bridge. A concept that has been growing in popularity! Bromsgrove Bridge Club run an event on 4th October – watch their website for updates

(www.bridgewebs.com/bromsgrove). Worcester Bridge Club has one on 17th April and there are, apparently, a couple of places still available (www.bridgewebs.com/worcester).

The Oxford Bridge Festival. If you fancy one' two, three or four days further afield with a combination of bridge and sightseeing, the Oxford Bridge Festival in September is one you might want to consider. Details can be found at <http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/index.php/festival-2018>

If you would like further details of any of these events or would like to know more about the County Association, or anything else to do with bridge, please drop me an email at mike.willoughby@btinternet.com.

Mike Willoughby on behalf of the WCBA Committee