Weak and 4? Strong and 5?

Patrick, February 2018

Storyboard for tonight

- What we mean: weak & 4, strong & 5
- Good and bad points of each
- Sample hands bid both ways
- <play some hands and discuss>
- <bre><break>
- What normally goes with strong & 5
- <play some hands and discuss>
- <any questions>

Where do we stand?

Club bridge

Tournament Bridge in the UK

Bridge world-wide

PART 1

What is "weak & 4"?

Weak & 4

- Opening 1N is 12-14
 - but should be 11-14 when non-vulnerable

- Opening a suit guarantees 4+ there
 - always hearts with both majors and balanced
 - otherwise it varies

Weak & 4

PLUS POINTS

- descriptive bid for a common hand
- obstructive element they come in at 2-level
- easy for beginners to learn

MINUS POINTS

- could hit a penalty double
- missed major fit if passed out
- awkward suit raises with 15-17 balanced

PART 1b

What is "strong & 5"?

- Opening 1N is 15-17
 - some tournament players like to upgrade 14s
 - many now playing 14-16
- Opening a major guarantees 5+ cards
 - always highest suit on any 5-5 hand
 - can open 6cd minor with a 5cd major
- With a weak NT hand?

Opening in minors – can be natural

- With a weak NT hand
 - open a 4cd minor suit if you had one
 - else open 1♣ if you have three of them
 - else open 1 ◆ (has to be 4432 shape)

More often now – "a prepared club"

- Prepared club
 - take in all weak NT hands
 - (and hands too strong for 1N)
 - only promises two clubs

- ensures you have an "unbalanced diamond"
 - good to know in competition
 - frees up the NT rebids

- Minimum hands with a 5cd major
 - get opened 1♥ or 1♠
 - need a safe rebid if partner bids 2♣ or 2◆

- So usually goes with
 - 1N response very wide ranging, and
 - 2-over-1 as GAME FORCE

Implications of wide ranging 1N response

- partner passes with weak NT hand
 - nothing exciting will be missed

- partner bids suit if an unbalanced hand
 - same boat as otherwise, except that ...
 - ... some 1N responses might now bid 2N or higher

range of a 1N opener?

PLUS POINTS

- 1N is a descriptive bid
- supporting partner's 1M opener is easier

MINUS POINTS

- competing in the opened minor tricky
- they can overcall 1m more easily (+ and -)

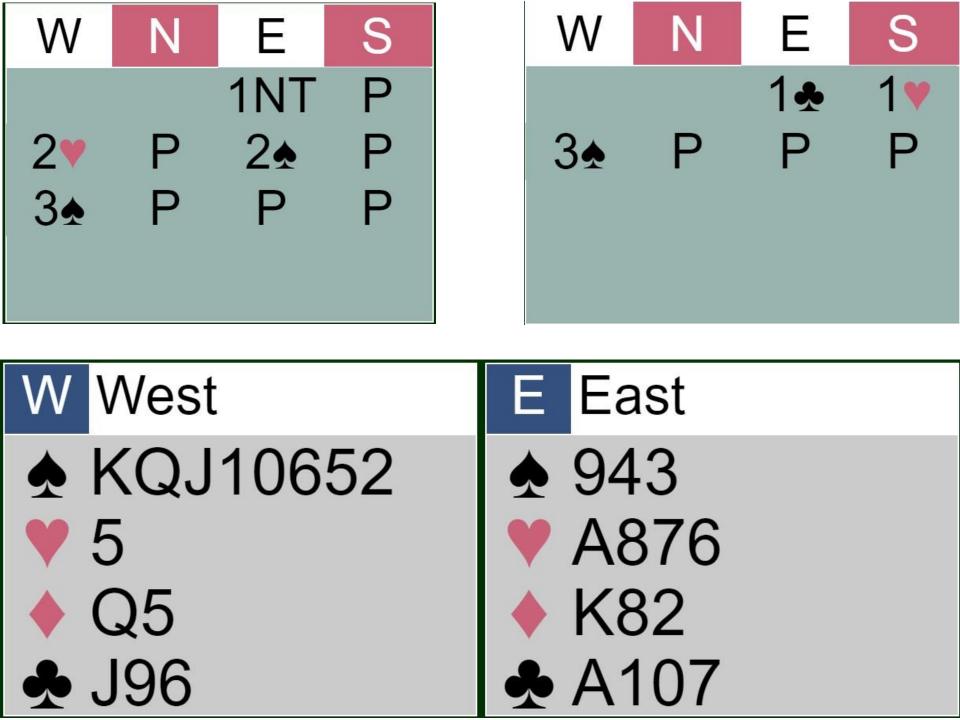
When it makes a difference ...

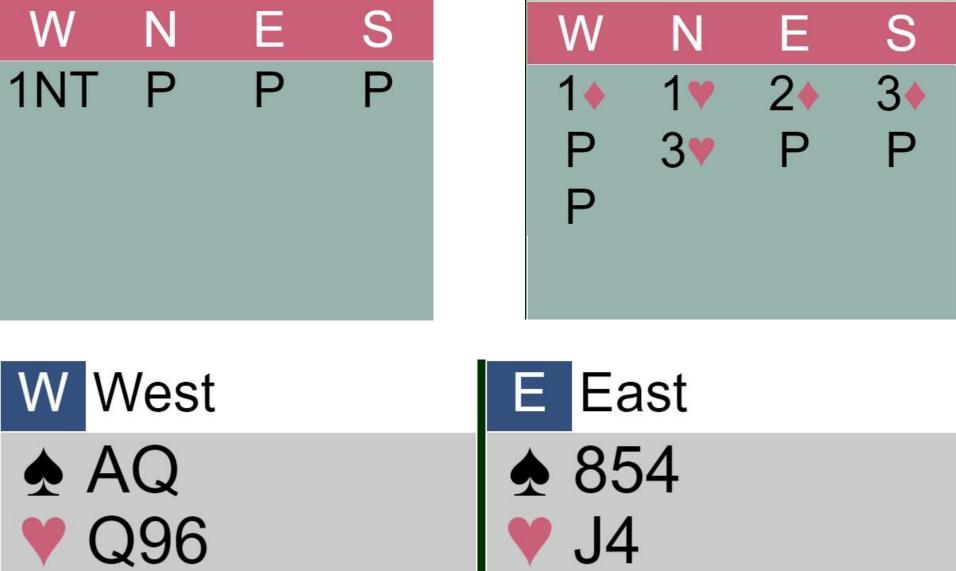
Unbalanced hands

- no changes on a free auction bidding a new suit
- supporting pre-emptively easier

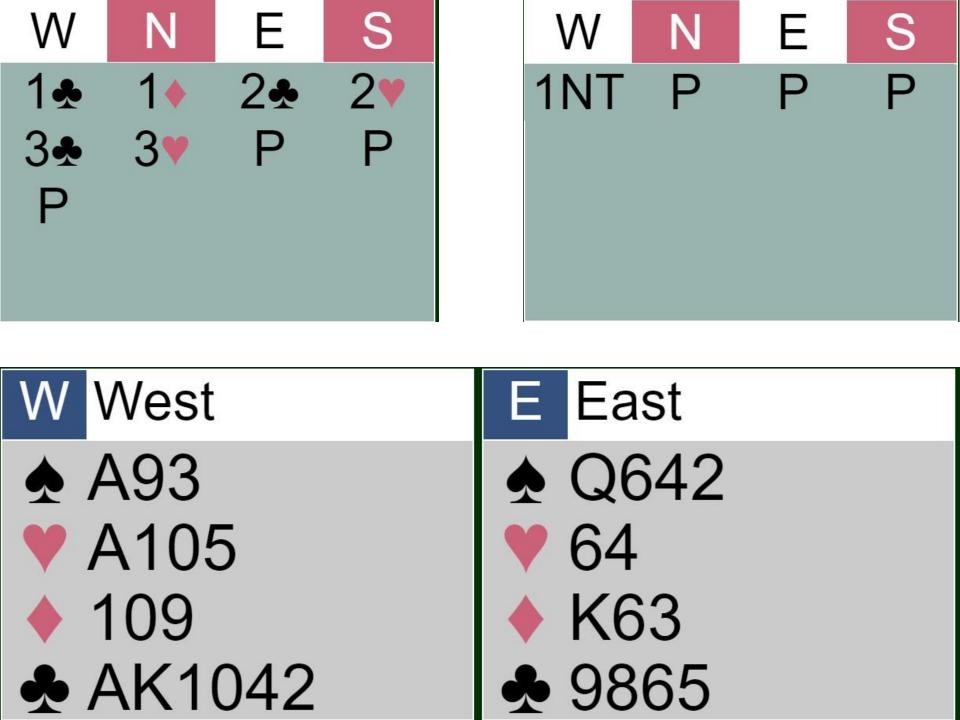
Balanced hands

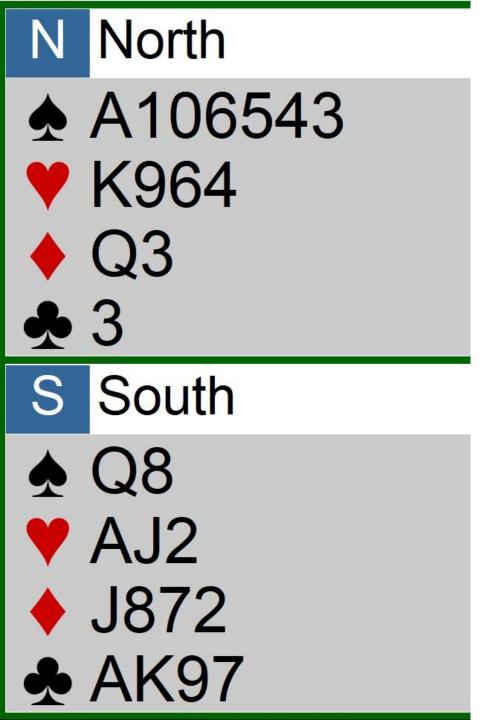
- when opener rebids 1N : no effect
- when opener supports a major : gain
- In competition: majors good, minors bad

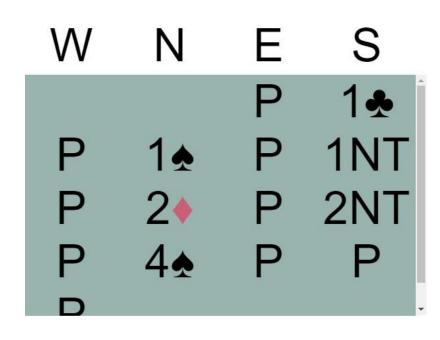


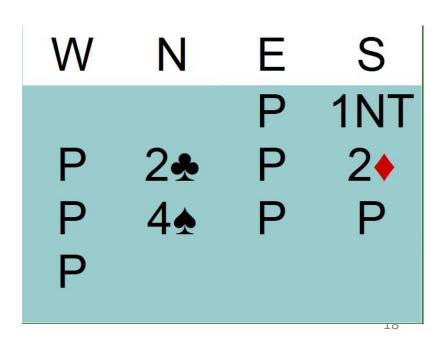


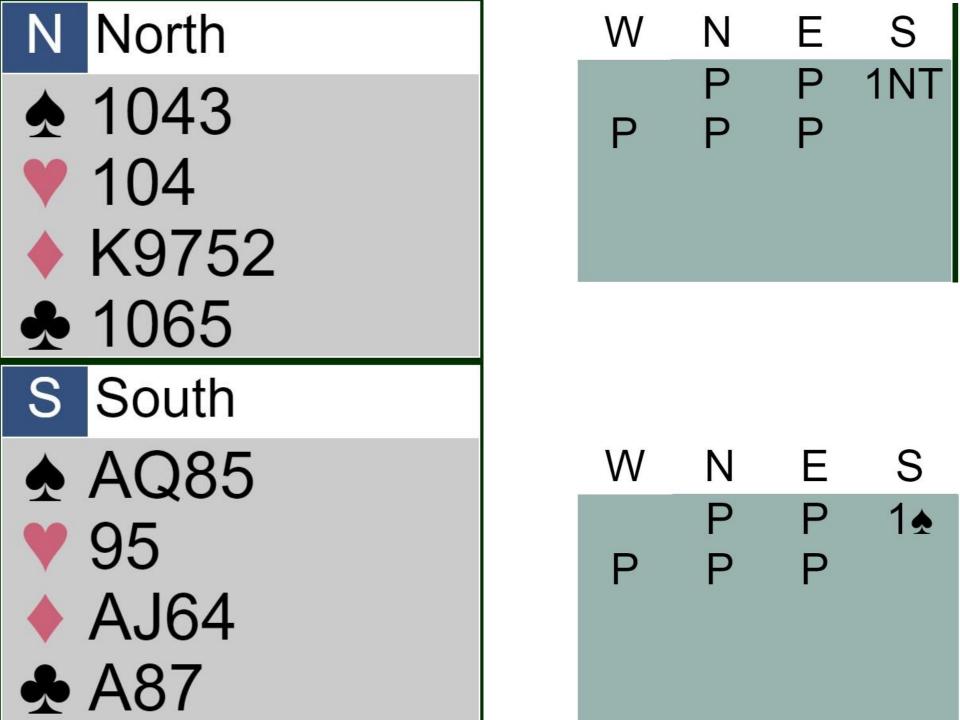


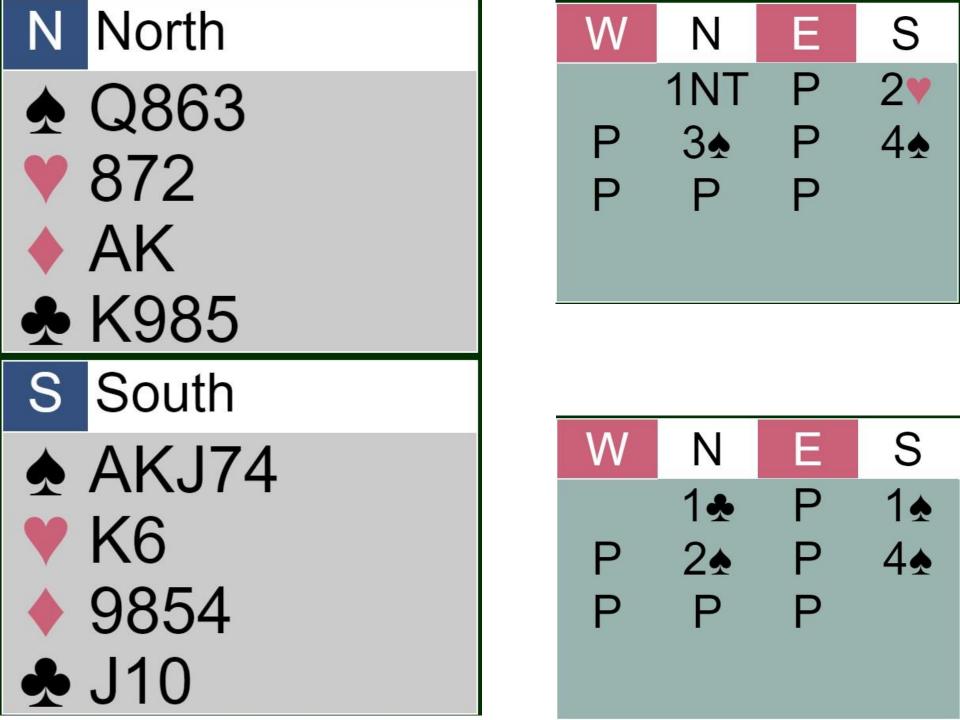




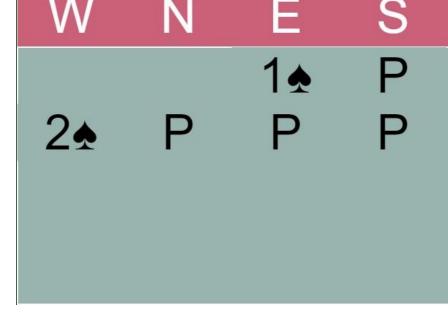






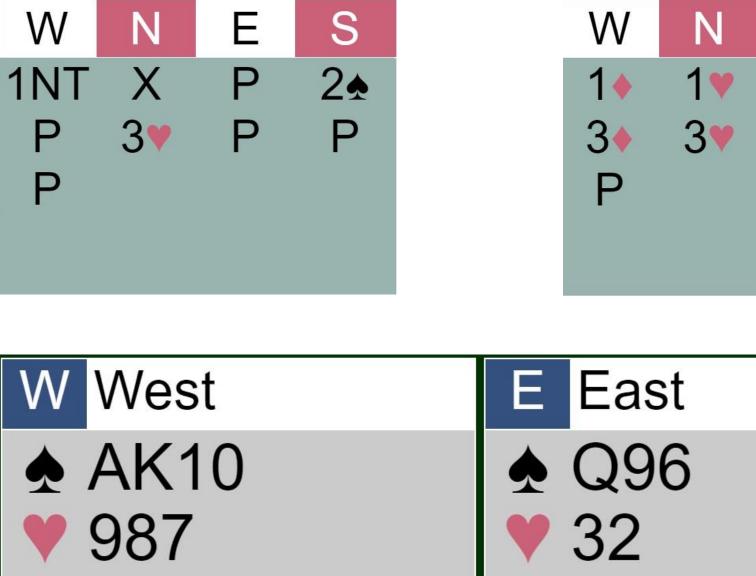












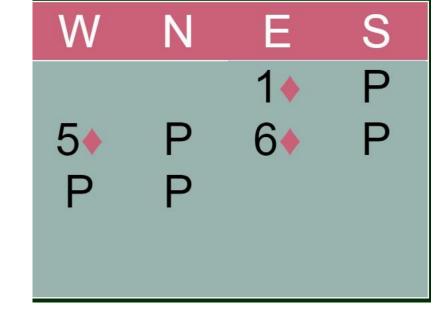


Conclusions

- You often get to the same contract
- Sometimes they get in whichever NT you play

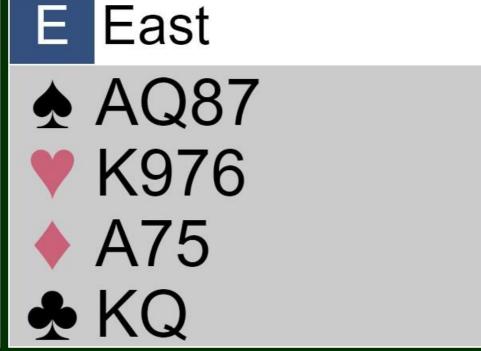
- > Those were all hands from Monday 22nd
- > Now those hands from Monday 29th where the choice made a difference ...



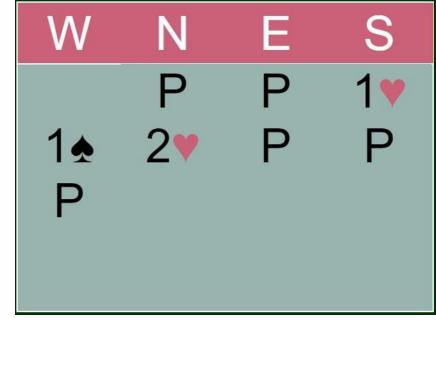




♣ A65









LET'S PLAY SOME HANDS NOW (BOARDS 1-2)

Tea break before / during / after but not all at once ... all done by 35 minutes from now

BOARDS PLAYED

Board 1: elimination & end play

Board 2: not giving away trick or entries

PART 2

What goes with "strong & 5"?

Key Repercussions

- Opener might have weak NT hand
 - bids at 2-level "need" to be game forcing
 - 1N rebid is wide-ranging

- When partner bids at 2-level
 - 2N rebid now either weak, or very strong

Key Repercussions

- When partner rebids a major
 - becomes a guarantee of 6 cards

- When partner reverses
 - it now longer shows extra values, just shape

- When partner supports
 - always 4+ cards

Adoption of 2/1 Game Force

Dominates across the world

- English Trials for places in European Team
 - 10 out of 11 relevant pairs play 2/1 GF

- Why?
 - so much more space on all big hands

PART 3

What worries me about "weak & 4"?

Raising responder's major

THE PROBLEM HAND

- **♣** J543
- AQ6
- ♦ KJT9
- ♣ A7

THE BIDDING

$$1 \leftarrow -1 \land -?$$

Raising responder's minor

THE PROBLEM HAND

- ♠ KJT9
- AQ6
- ◆ AJ65
- **♣** J7

THE BIDDING

$$1 \wedge -2 \leftarrow -?$$

Missing a major suit fit ...

THE PROBLEM HANDS

♠ Q7532

♠ KJ76

Y K6

V 83

◆ A73

♦ KJ943

♣ A76

♣ J5

THE BIDDING

$$1N - P - P - P$$

LET'S PLAY SOME HANDS NOW (BOARDS 3-4)

all done by 15 minutes from now

BOARDS PLAYED

Board 3: not losing four tricks

Board 4 : careful defence

HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS

On what we have done, or what we have not done