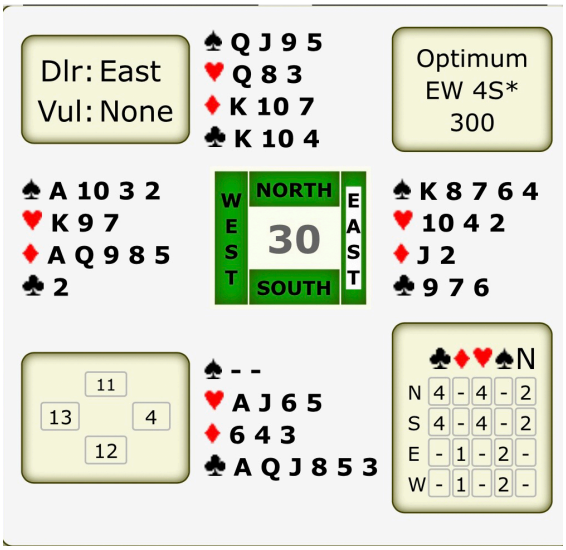
Bidding in Pairs versus Teams

This board was played 10 times, mostly in clubs with 3 people playing in NT.

The bidding is interesting for a few reasons, South opens the bidding with 1C, West has a couple of choices, either 1D or double. I suspect some people bid 1D as nobody played in S's. Those who doubled had their hopes dashed when North bid 1S, East happily passed this. South settled for 2 Clubs.



West devalues their hand with an average Diamond suit and 4 S's under North's holding, they should pass and await developments. North reasons that holding a flat 11 points opposite a possible 12 points and 5 C's, it could be unwise to bid on. However, this is a pairs event and the diamond holding is attractive, particularly if partner has anything at all in D's there could be 2 stops.

In pairs scoring, No Trumps will score higher than a minor suit.

Now South has to decide whether to Pass or bid 3C's - another tight call. 3C's is certainly safer and the correct bid if playing teams. 2NT is more attractive in pairs as you only need to make 8 tricks plus scoring 120 against 110 for 3C's.

ard No 30 None Vul Dealer East

Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
3NT	N	♦J	-1		50	0.00	18.00
2♣	S	♦A	+2	130		9.00	9.00
2NT	N	♦J	+1	150		17.00	1.00
2♣	S	♠2	+2	130		9.00	9.00
3♣	S	♣2	+1	130		9.00	9.00
2NT	N	♦J	+1	150		17.00	1.00
3♣	S	♥7	=	110		2.00	16.00
3♣	S	♠A	+1	130		9.00	9.00
4♣	S	♣2	=	130		9.00	9.00
4♣	S	♥7	=	130		9.00	9.00

In this case 3C's is a better contract as scoring 130 is better than 2NT scoring 120 which is all that 'should' make with best defence.

On this hand you need hearts breaking 3/3 to make 4Cs. Two players made 2NT + 1 which came about due to a pseudo squeeze giving them a joint top on the board scoring 150 against 130 for most of the club contracts .

2 NT - The PLAY

Win the first Diamond with the King and then cash 6 C's. Study west's discards.

How should west hold declarer to 2NT?

West is known to have most of the defensive points and needs to make 5 discards on the clubs. 2Ss, 1H, and 1D and on the 5th one there is a conundrum. The discard should be a Diamond to avoid being endplayed in hearts for the last 2 tricks. A spade discard would also be fatal as West will end up having to lead a Heart away from the King if declarer puts west in with a diamond.

(The analysis shows a makable contract of 4H but realistically N/S won't find that fit).