

## Analysis of hands of 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020

**Bd 1.** If E opens 1C South will perhaps overcall 2S weak and it will go Pass, Pass and double from E as takeout with short spades and holding 4 hearts, West will bid 3H and there they should play. Remember West was not able to double 2S for takeout earlier or he wasn't even strong enough to double a 1S overcall if that was bid. Therefore they should not reach 4H though it is makeable by ruffing clubs and finessing one round of hearts.

**Bd 3.** South opens 1C, W passes and N bids 1S and E with a 16 count and holding 4 of the two unbid suits D and H, should double. South will rebid 2C and West certainly is worth at least 2H. He has only 3 points but he has 6 hearts and his partner has just announced that he also has hearts and a good opening bid which he must have to double in 4<sup>th</sup> seat. North will raise to at least 3C and East can now bid 3H or maybe even 4H. South, being non vul with 6 clubs and also holding 4 diamonds, (another positive feature) may make a non vul sacrifice versus a Vul making game. Interestingly 5C makes this time.

**Bd 6** West will open 1C. N could overcall 1S. He doesn't have to double. **Remember you rarely double with 5 card suits and opening points YOU BID THEM IN AN OVERCALL.** If you learned differently in your bridge lessons then change that immediately. The only exception is when you hold 5/4/4 and a void in the suit opened then it's a hand to make a takeout double. If partner cannot respond to 1S there is nothing on the hand. South will raise to 2S and N simply bids 4 making 11 tricks losing a club and a S. It's criminal to be in 3NT. Who bid NT looking at 5/4 in majors in one hand and 5 spades in the other. If you doubled 1C with the N hand South should bid 2C saying he has around 9 or 10 hcp as he is already a passed hand and is indicating he has Majors. Bidding the suit opened against you is asking partner to bid one of his suits. North will go straight to 4S.

**Bd 7:** It's wrong to rebid 2C on N hand here as some did. If you opened 1C and if E overcalled 1H then South should double (I know a double should show 4 spades) but S is trying to right side the NT contract where N might hold Qxx of H and E KJxxx. N should rebid 1NT showing 15/17. Some might play a strong NT and would open 1NT. 4 diamonds can be cashed but if HJ is led you should play A from dummy, otherwise you lose a H and 4 diamonds

**Bd 10.** Some West responded 1S on a 4 count here. That is wrong. ITS JUST WRONG WRONG WRONG. You have a flat 4 count. Worse still East went to 3S on a flat 15. This is a 2S rebid. The hand should be played in 2H or 3H by N/S.

**Bd 11:** Should be played in 4H by N/S. There is no reason for either E or W to go to 4S at Nil All. In fact 4S can be thrashed if hearts are led and the first round of spades is not taken by the A. But there is no reason whatsoever for E/W to go to 4S. It's a Nil All sacrifice against a making 4H and should not be bid. (It would be different against a Vul 4H.)

**Bd 12:** Should be played in 4S or 5S and NOT 6S. You are missing an Ace and the Q of trumps which luckily falls singleton. When missing 4 or 5 trumps including the Q and also an ace you should not be in a slam. This hand has a heart loser and also DA. H lead beats it. Using Roman Keycard Blackwood, which everyone should play, will tell you that you are missing the Q and also an Ace. The 11 point hand (West) that opened 1S is an awful hand as it holds a good AK but wasted points in a Q and a J and a J. Far better to have an AK and another K or A to make up the remaining 4 points. Kings and Aces are controls and that's what's needed in suit contracts.

**Bd 14:** If E opens a weak NT it will go P, P around to N who has a 12 count and two 4 card majors. If N plays 2C or 2D to show both Majors he can use it BUT I would stress I would not have bid it if the North cards were in the South hand because at that stage I do not know what holding West has. After West passes we now know West has a limited hand so its different being in the North seat because its the pass out position. Some people like to hold 9 cards in the two suits but as North I would actually bid 2C or 2D here depending what I was using to show the Majors. South will probably jump to 3S only because he knows his partner can be weaker in the pass out position. North should pass. 4S is a very lucky make.

**Bd 21:** Should be played in 2H. 10 tricks might make depending on the defence. But switching to trumps leaves you with a D loser though there is a very fortunate club situation. The bidding should be 1H by S and only a raise to 2H by N. If North had had 4 trumps instead of three then it would be worth a raise to 3H but not holding only three.

**Bd 22:** If a D lead is made against 6NT then you can make 3 diamonds, and 3 top tricks in the other 3 suits. However if its 6S you are in then you need the Spades to break otherwise you lose a D and a S. 6NT is not a bad contract. On a non D lead you just need the S to break no worse than 4/2.