

# Summertown Bridge Bulletin No. 1

## 2 November 2020

Here is the first of a planned series of weekly bulletins featuring hands from the Summertown weekly online game on BBO.

Unfortunately I was unable to play last night (persistent problems with BBO) but I've chosen two interesting hands.

Steven Bliss

Dir: North Vul: None	♠KQ84 ♥6 ♦AJ10842 ♣104	Optimum NS 3H; +140																																		
♠107632 ♥975 ♦K7 ♣K75	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px;">W</td><td style="width: 60px; text-align: center; background-color: #008000; color: white;">North</td><td style="width: 20px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">e</td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">a</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">s</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">s</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px;">t</td><td style="text-align: center; background-color: #008000; color: white;">South</td><td style="width: 20px;">t</td></tr> </table>	W	North	E	e	1	a	s		s	t	South	t	♠AJ5 ♥84 ♦Q965 ♣AJ32																						
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W	-	-	-	1	-																															

Hand 1, above, is all about the play. Everyone played in hearts, usually 4 hearts (one pair in 3 hearts, and one in a hopeless slam). A possible bidding sequence is 1D-1H-1S-2C-2D-4H. Looking at all four hands it's clear that South should lose 4 tricks (1 spade, 3 clubs).

However *defence is difficult*, and five out of seven Souths made 10 tricks. Almost all Wests led a spade (one led a club, which helped declarer). East wins the spade lead and has to decide what to do. Dummy's spades and diamonds won't provide many quick discards, so there seems no rush to attach clubs – best to play a passive trump. Declarer draws trumps and has two options:

1. Play several rounds of trumps and hope the defenders discard clubs. As declarer needs to retain two or three trumps, this probably doesn't put the defenders under enough pressure to work.
2. Cross to dummy with a diamond, discard a club on a spade, and lead the 10 of clubs. If East covers automatically with the jack, as we were taught to do, declarer is home and dry. East has to hope that partner has a club honour so does best to play low.

Dlr: South  
Vul: N/S

♠KQ42  
♥AQ105  
♦--  
♣Q10432

Optimum  
NS 5S;  
+650

  

♠A87  
♥874  
♦J862  
♣J86

W	North	E
e	15	a
s	South	s
t		t

♠5  
♥J3  
♦KQ107543  
♣A95

  

	13	
6		10
	11	

♠J10963  
♥K962  
♦A9  
♣K7

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	-	4	5	-
S	4	-	4	5	-
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

This is Hand 15, which is about competitive bidding. South has just enough to open 1 spade. (The hand passes the rule of 19 or 20, where you add your points to the cards in your two longest suits. It also has only 7 losers if you find a trump fit). North has (at least) two ways to raise to game: a 4 diamond splinter bid (trump support with a singleton or void diamond) or a Jacoby 2NT (asking partner for more information). As the hand has slam chances, I would prefer the Jacoby bid – it leaves more room to explore.

However, East will not keep quiet and will double 4 diamonds or bid 3 diamonds over 2NT. Either way South bids 4 spades to show a minimum opener. West has very little, but no hope of defeating 4 spades, so at favourable vulnerability West can bid 5 diamonds – 3 off doubled is cheaper than 4 spades. North now has an awkward decision. Although ‘the five level belongs to the opposition’, on this hand it looks right to go on to 5 spades.

Anyway, that’s how I thought it should go! At the actual event:

- One NS pair played in a hopeless 3NT
- One EW pair played in 5D\*, for -500, a good score.
- Two NS pairs were allowed to play in 4 spades +1.
- Two NS pairs went on to 5 spades.
- The last NS pair also went on to 5 spades, but was doubled by the robots sitting EW. They clearly haven’t been programmed very well, as this is terrible tactics. If 5 spades is going off you already have a good score without doubling, and if 5 spades is making the double converts an average score into a bottom.