

Summertown Bridge Bulletin 11th April 2022

Hello, this is Steven again. Unfortunately I couldn't play last night, but I found two interesting hands. Congratulations to Sandra & Krysa, who won comfortably, and Moira & Cliff who were second.

Dir: South Vul: E/W	♠ 7 4 2 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ A 7 6 3 ♣ J 9 8	Optimum NS -100																																							
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Two questions here: Should EW bid 4♥, and should they make it?

Everyone opened 1♥ in fourth position with the East hand. Every South but one then doubled – you have the ideal shape, and partner knows you passed originally, so won't get too excited. Most Wests now jumped to 4♥, which is certainly tempting, although a conventional bid of 2NT (showing a good raise to 3♥ or better – but you have passed initially!) is an alternative. As you can see, 9 tricks is the limit against best defence: you lose two red Aces and two clubs. Three people made 4♥ and three went off. It was all about defence and, in particular, the choice of opening lead.

South has a difficult lead against 4♥. Two Souths led clubs (one the Ace, one the 4), which effectively gave declarer the contract. The alternative is reluctantly to lead away from one of your Queens – but which one?

Three people led a spade. This actually gives declarer a chance to make the contract, if you let it run to the Jack, discard a club on the ♠AK and then lead the singleton diamond (on which most Norths will play the Ace). Easy when you can see all the cards! No one actually played it quite like this, or managed to make ten tricks on a spade lead.

Dave Dobson got a diamond lead, but North didn't find the killing club switch, and Dave was eventually able to discard two of dummy's clubs on diamonds and ruff one club in dummy, making 4♥.

Dlr: East
 Vul: None

♠ A K 9 4 2
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ K Q 9 5 4
 ♣ 10

Optimum
 NS
 +1520

♠ Q 10 8 6
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ 3
 ♣ K Q 9 8 5 4

W NORTH E
 S 14 T
 T SOUTH T

♠ J 7 5 3
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ J 8 6
 ♣ J 7 3

♠ - -
 ♥ A Q 9 5 4 2
 ♦ A 10 7 2
 ♣ A 6 2

15
 7 4
 14

	♣	♦	♥	♠
N	2	7	7	4
S	2	7	7	4
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

On board 14, everyone made 13 tricks in diamonds, hearts, or no trumps. It was all about the bidding.

South has an obvious 1♥ opener, and most Wests then overcalled either 2♣ or 3♣, after which North doubled or bid spades. What should South rebid? Do you show the second suit (diamonds), or rebid the 6-card heart suit?

Where South rebid the long heart suit, only one pair got to slam in hearts. The winning action was to show the diamonds: the three pairs who did so, all got to a slam in diamonds.

Mary-Ann Sheehy bid Blackwood once South showed diamonds, found three aces opposite, and went straight to 7♦. The grand slam might fail if suits break very badly, but you would be unlucky, and here 13 tricks rolled in easily when everything broke normally.

Steven Bliss, April 2022