

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 11th July 2022

Many thanks to Erica (organizer, scorer and host), Steven (director), and all those who supplied, and helped with, the food and wine for Summertown's first Face-to-Face event in over two years. With six tables it all went splendidly. My surprise was that no one looked any older, in fact everyone looked younger. I think this is the aging effect of screens.

I found it difficult at first, remembering what to do with bridge-mates and trying not to fall foul of all the things you can do wrong at a real table which online bridge stops you doing (e.g. see hand 10 below). But having food and wine available throughout the evening is wonderful, and perhaps should be a feature of all future F2F events.

The disadvantage, from the point of view of a bulletin-writer, is that there is no record of the bidding or play of the cards. So I can only look at the results of some interesting hands.

Dir: South
Vul: E/W

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ Q 2
♦ K 3
♣ A 7 4 3 2

♠ 9 5 4
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5
♦ A 5
♣ K 6

W NORTH E
S 3 A S
T SOUTH T

♠ K 6 2
♥ - -
♦ Q J 9 8 2
♣ Q J 10 9 8

♠ J 10 7
♥ A K J 4 3
♦ 10 7 6 4
♣ 5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	3	3	1
S	-	-	3	3	1
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

15
7 9
9

Board 3 was normally played in no trumps by N-S, but at one table somehow the bidding arrived at 3♥ by South. West can hardly be blamed for doubling, no doubt thinking declarer was in for a nasty surprise. But there is nothing the defence can do, South must always make 5 trump tricks (one club ruff and 4 top trumps), one diamond, 2 spades and a club.

Three E-W pairs reached very good slams on Board 5: 6♥ or 6NT. The former contract is better, since 6NT would normally rely on a 3-2 club break to set up a club to throw your losing diamond. In fact the ♦Q drops, so there is no losing diamond. Playing in hearts, declarer will probably begin by playing Ace and King of diamonds, intending to ruff the losing diamond high in dummy. Once the Queen drops, you can draw trumps and may as well finesse the ♣10 for the 25% chance of QJ on your left. It works and you have ♠A entry to dummy for the second finesse, if North went up with an honour the first time. So everyone should make 13 tricks. But they didn't.

Dir: North
Vul: N/S

♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ 8 2
♦ Q 6
♣ Q J 9 8 7

♠ A 9 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ A K
♣ 6 5 4 3 2

W NORTH E
S 5 A S
T SOUTH T

♠ K 4
♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ J 7 4
♣ A K 10

♠ Q J 7 6
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 10 9 8 5 3 2
♣ - -

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	2	7	4	7
W	5	2	6	4	7

5
15 17
3

Dlr: East
Vul: All

♠ Q 9
♥ A 8 7 4
♦ J 9 7
♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ 10 7 6 5
♥ K Q 9
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ 5 3

W NORTH E
S 10 A
T SOUTH T

♠ K J 2
♥ J 10 6 5 2
♦ 8 3
♣ K 10 9

9
10 8
13

♠ A 8 4 3
♥ 3
♦ A 10 6 2
♣ A J 7 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	2	-	-	-
S	3	2	-	-	-
E	-	-	1	1	1
W	-	-	1	1	1

On Board 10, everyone was in 1NT by either North or South. Two went one off, two just made it, one made 8 tricks and one made 10! In our case it was played by South, my partner led ♠5, declarer held off until the third round - and then what? At home I stared at this hand trying to work out how we had possibly allowed the declarer to make seven tricks. Eventually I asked Moira if she could remember. "That was the one where you revoked," she said, rather bluntly I thought. OK, yes, as she was running off our defensive tricks at the end, I revoked and we had to forfeit a trick. "It's not like online bridge," I complained, "all these little red cards look the same." But I received no sympathy.

Dlr: South
Vul: None

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ A Q 10 9 7
♣ Q J 10 4

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

W NORTH E
S 11 A
T SOUTH T

♠ K 10 9 8
♥ K Q J 8
♦ 8
♣ A 8 5 3

9
6 13
12

♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ K 3
♣ K 9 7 6 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	2	-	1	-
S	4	2	-	2	-
E	-	-	4	-	1
W	-	-	4	-	1

Finally, here's Board 11. West is normally playing game in hearts, but at two tables only 9 tricks were made against the lead of the ♠5. It looks as if whatever then happens, declarer simply loses two spades and a diamond – you can draw trumps, ruff two diamonds, and throw two others on the ♣A and a (now set-up) spade. Maybe on the opening lead, South took ♠Q, ♠A and then led another, declarer omitting to ruff high.

Cliff Pavelin