

# Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 12 July 2021

by James Bentley

Not enough bridge hands are decided on penalties. To win at bridge, you have to practise taking penalties and stick with your strategy when things don't go to plan.

Dir: North  
Vul: None

♠ Q J 10  
♥ A 5 4 3 2  
♦ Q J 10 3  
♣ 3

Optimum  
NS 2S+1:  
+140

♠ 9 8 6  
♥ K 9 8 6  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ 8 6 4

NORTH
WEST
1
EAST
SOUTH

♠ A 5 4  
♥ Q J 10 7  
♦ A K 8  
♣ K J 9

10	
3	18
9	

♠ K 7 3 2  
♥ - -  
♦ 9 7 5  
♣ A Q 10 7 5 2

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

On Board 1, North might open 1♥. Only 10 HCP, but touching suits and those No. 10s are like having a couple of Raheem Sterlings on your team. Go for it. East, with 18HCP, could double, but with 4333, I prefer 1NT. Robert and Alison, playing N/S, ended up doubling 3NT. A rare penalty success.

Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

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

Optimum  
EW 3D:  
-110

♠ A 9  
♥ J 7 6 2  
♦ A 9 7 2  
♣ Q 8 5

WEST
NORTH
3
EAST
SOUTH

♠ J 5 2  
♥ A 10  
♦ K 10 8 4 3  
♣ J 10 7

12	
11	9
8	

♠ Q 6 4  
♥ Q 9 4 3  
♦ 6 5  
♣ A 6 4 3

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

On Board 3, West should pass and North opens 1♠ or 1NT. It's all about system and partnership agreement. For us, 1NT would be passed out for a bad score. Irritatingly, the alternative 1♠-2♠ makes unless you are playing a know-it-all robot. Best of all for NS is for everyone to overbid then the Chairman (South) gets a chance to take it to penalties. Despite unwisely introducing two clubs in Round One, the manager took full responsibility. 4♦ doubled for a top!

Dlr: South  
 Vul: All

♠ A K J 6 2  
 ♥ Q J 5  
 ♦ A J 7 3  
 ♣ J

Optimum  
 EW 5Cx:  
 +500

♠ Q 9 7 3  
 ♥ A 9  
 ♦ Q 8 2  
 ♣ A K 9 5

NORTH  
 WEST 7 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ - -  
 ♥ 8 7 3 2  
 ♦ 9 5 4  
 ♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2

17  
 15 2  
 6

♠ 10 8 5 4  
 ♥ K 10 6 4  
 ♦ K 10 6  
 ♣ 6 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	2	3	4	-
S	-	2	2	4	-
E	3	-	-	-	-
W	3	-	-	-	1

On Board 7, a surprising number of Wests opened a retro 1♣. Current wisdom is to open the major with two 4-card suits. This was understandable as, in 1966, 1♣ would have been normal. What is best for North over 1♣? Double or 1♠? I prefer 1♠. Whatever North bids, East should bid 5♣, even vulnerable (well done Trevor), and now NS can only double for -500.

Those who correctly opened 1♠ came up against a robot in the North seat who passed. Nasty.

Strong no-trump Wests will open 1NT and North can deploy his favourite gadget (Multi-Landy for us), but it will be difficult to find the making 4♠, especially if Trevor occupies the East seat.

Dlr: West  
 Vul: None

♠ 7 5 4  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ A Q J 9 5 2  
 ♣ K 7 3

Optimum  
 EW 7S:  
 -1510

♠ Q J 10 9 8  
 ♥ K J 9 8  
 ♦ 8 6  
 ♣ A 9

NORTH  
 WEST 8 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ A K 6 3  
 ♥ A Q 10 7 3 2  
 ♦ - -  
 ♣ J 8 4

10  
 11 14  
 5

♠ 2  
 ♥ 6 5  
 ♦ K 10 7 4 3  
 ♣ Q 10 6 5 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	4	-	-	-
S	2	4	-	-	-
E	-	-	6	7	1
W	-	-	6	7	1

After 1♠-2♦-4♦ (splinter), what should South bid? Pass smoothly if you are Italian, planning to hit the opposition hard later on. 5♦ seems normal, 6♦ is more fun, but 7♦ is winning bridge. No one found it. Come on England, press more, make their life difficult.

Benito and Pietro, playing EW, were thinking *Che cosa ci consiglia?* Take it to penalties? 7♠?

7♦ doubled would be a bottom for EW.

A total of 47 hands went down last night. Only 7 were doubled. One making contract was doubled.