

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 13 December 2021

Board the First (and last)

Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

♠ J 9 8 6 5 4  
 ♥ 10 6 2  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ 2

Optimum  
EW 2C+2:  
-130

♠ A 10  
 ♥ 5 3  
 ♦ K 6 5 3  
 ♣ K J 7 5 3

NORTH  
 WEST 1 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ Q 7 3 2  
 ♥ A J 9 8  
 ♦ 7 2  
 ♣ A 9 4

♠ K  
 ♥ K Q 7 4  
 ♦ A 10 8 4  
 ♣ Q 10 8 6

4  
 11 11  
 14

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

View Larger Play it again

Board No 1 None Vul Dealer North										
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-	Play
2	6	2♠	N	♦7	7		50	7	5	Play
3	5	2♠	N	♦7	7		50	7	5	Play
4	9	4♣	W	♦Q	9	50		10	2	Play
8	11	3♦	S	♠A	7		100	3	9	Play
12	10	1♠	N	♦7	9	140		12	0	Play
13	1	2♦	S	♥5	6		100	3	9	Play
14	7	2♦	S	♥5	5		150	0	12	Play

Once upon a time there was a bridge club somewhere in wildest Oxfordshire where, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, everyone was allowed to overbid except one club pair who were secretly nominated to play properly.

So, to the bidding. Surprisingly, none of the Norths were acol-ytes of Sally Brock and all passed. They missed a perfect opportunity for an overbid, but expected to remedy this later. Likewise the Easts missed an opportunity for an unsound 1NT.

Many Souths, who follow the teachings of Saint Andrew of Robson, bid 1♣. West was itching to bid clubs too, but had to pass and, on any other day of the year, East would then borrow a King and make a take out double. But on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, North is entitled to bid 1♠. On all other days of the year a responder who bids with 4 HCP should have Axxxx.

South knows that North is only joking with his 1♠ bid so decides that, '1♠ might make, but 2♠ will surely fail', so with a misfit, I will bid 1NT (promising 15-17) with a 14 HCP hand, and make N bid 2♣. He he!

Other Souths follow the traditional 4441/1444 middle suit agreement and opened 1♦. This allowed some Wests to bid 2♣ – 'I'm not vulnerable, my ♦K is sitting comfortably'. North should pass and East will pass or raise to 3♣. The End. Of course, no one actually played there ...

Other Wests, again followers of Saint Andrew of Robson, remembered his *Sermon of the SQOT*. It is difficult to recall everything he said with a glass of warming Prosecco in your hand, the dog barking and Amazon delivering yet another last minute Unwanted Christmas Present. But the gist of the Sermon was that SQOT was a pretty important thing to remember. The Suit Quality Overcall Test says that you add the number of honours to the number of cards in your suit and that is what you bid - i.e. NOT TWO CLUBS. Also, these wise Wests knew that their left hand opponent is probably a bidding junky and fan of Gandalf (*You cannot pass!*). They knew that North would bid 1♠ on a pile of used wrapping paper, the auction going 1♦-1♠-2♣-2♦. Oops.

If the bidding goes 1♦-2♣-P-P- round to South, what does he do? As it is the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, his 14 HCP is strong enough for a reverse to 2♥, because the fact that his Q1086 of Clubs are not sitting well can be ignored. As can the fact that his partner passed. Optimism is vital at this time of year. North reverts to 3♦ and East decides that, having passed during the first round, now is the time to bid 4♣ – doubling 3♦ would be so unkind, thinking 'We should not be talking advantage of the weak and helpless just before Christmas'.

So who were the mystery pair, the only ones permitted to play above NGS level 4? Step forward Alison and Robert. Alison bids 1♣ and Robert passes. East wisely doubles and Alison wisely passes. West, normally of a kindly disposition, also passes, expecting to take 1♣ doubled four off. But Robert slips in a winning 1♠ bid. The only contract to make.

'OH, NO IT WON'T,' says the Computer.

'OH, YES IT WILL,' says the defence.

It is, remember children, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.

And with Board The First, the pantomime has started....

*James Bentley*