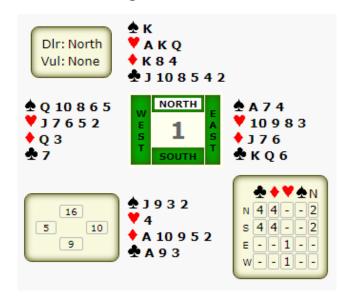
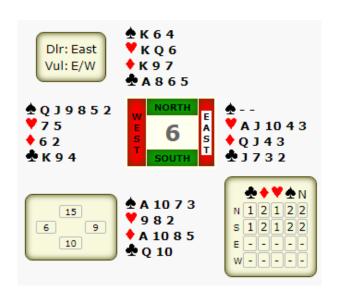
## **Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 14 November 2022**

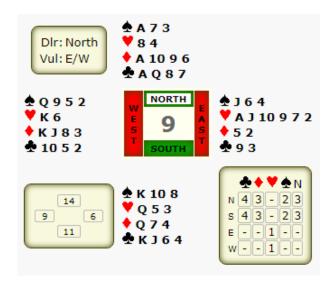


After North opens 1♣ and South responds 1♠, what should North rebid? 2♣ is too weak and 3♣ doesn't suit the hand. I like 1NT. The spades might be embarrassing, but you are surely odds-on to establish clubs.

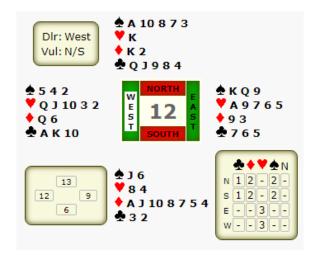
By the way, there is a thief at Summertown Bridge Club. Nearly all the doubling cards have been stolen. In fact the only penalty double during the evening was an unwise double of 4.5.5 went undoubled. MUST DOUBLE MORE dear members.



The bidding should be passed round to North, who should open 1NT. With such a flat shape, and 6 points in unsupported Kings, North's hand is worth only 14 points; and a wider range (we play 1NT 11-15 in 4<sup>th</sup> seat) would also suggest 1NT. With a two suited overcall available East will be tempted to make a vulnerable 2♥ overcall, but is too weak. If East does bid, South has an easy double, whether playing double as take out or penalties. If take out, North has a comfortable 2NT rebid. If West has the cheek to bid 2♠ (as one pair did, probably with a suspect weak two opener, but possibly as a suspect overcall), South MUST DOUBLE. It is your hand.



North may open 1NT (weak) or a minor (strong NT), and if so, should East bid a vulnerable 2♥ (or an artificial bid over 1NT showing six of a major)? No. But if East does bid, South must also bid. When it is your hand, you must not allow the opposition to steal it. 2♥ undoubled should be a top. On the night, Christmas came early for EW, as three NS pairs failed to get the nine tricks in NT. Please, please let's hope that declarer didn't cover the ♥J lead with the ♥Q.



If West opens a 5-card-major 1♥, East will bid 4♥ over North's 1♠ or Michaels 2♥. 4♥ needs some help from NS to make.

Playing weak NT, I go with Andrew Robson and open 1NT. North will come in with 2♠ (natural or two-suited) and East must bid. IT IS CRIMINAL TO PASS WHEN IT IS YOUR HAND. Whatever your system: double for take out or penalties (West would bid 3♥ after either type of double); 3♥ natural; 2NT Lebensohl, aiming to play in your suit at the 3 level (though playing Lebensohl, I would be tempted to bid 3♥ 'strong').

Can you make 4♥? Not on a ♦K lead. On ♣Q lead, quite reasonable if South hasn't bid diamonds, declarer West has chances. He plays two rounds of trumps and leads a small spade. North has to switch to ♦K when he wins ♠A. A second club is curtains; so is a second spade, as South can strip South of his last club and exit in diamonds (surely North will cover ♦ Q with ♦K?), getting a ruff and discard.