

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 14 November 2022

Dlr: North
Vul: None

♠ K
♥ A K Q
♦ K 8 4
♣ J 10 8 5 4 2

♠ Q 10 8 6 5
♥ J 7 6 5 2
♦ Q 3
♣ 7

NORTH
WEST 1 EAST
SOUTH

♠ A 7 4
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ J 7 6
♣ K Q 6

16
5 10
9

♠ J 9 3 2
♥ 4
♦ A 10 9 5 2
♣ A 9 3

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

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♣ went undoubled. MUST DOUBLE MORE dear members.

Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

♠ K 6 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ K 9 7
♣ A 8 6 5

♠ Q J 9 8 5 2
♥ 7 5
♦ 6 2
♣ K 9 4

NORTH
WEST 6 EAST
SOUTH

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

15
6 9
10

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 9 8 2
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ Q 10

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

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 4th 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.

Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

♠ A 7 3
♥ 8 4
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ A Q 8 7

♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ K 6
♦ K J 8 3
♣ 10 5 2

NORTH
9
SOUTH

♠ J 6 4
♥ A J 10 9 7 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 9 3

14
9 6
11

♠ K 10 8
♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q 7 4
♣ K J 6 4

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

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.

Dlr: West
Vul: N/S

♠ A 10 8 7 3
♥ K
♦ K 2
♣ Q J 9 8 4

♠ 5 4 2
♥ Q J 10 3 2
♦ Q 6
♣ A K 10

NORTH
12
SOUTH

♠ K Q 9
♥ A 9 7 6 5
♦ 9 3
♣ 7 6 5

13
12 9
6

♠ J 6
♥ 8 4
♦ A J 10 8 7 5 4
♣ 3 2

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

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.