

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 17 August 2021

Dir: East Vul: E/W	♠ 3 2 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ A Q 8 6 4 ♣ J 9 4	Optimum EW 4H+1: -650																																													
♠ K J 10 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ A Q 10 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">NORTH</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">WEST</td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">6</td><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">SOUTH</td><td style="background-color: #008000;"></td><td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> </table>	NORTH		EAST	WEST	6	EAST	SOUTH		EAST	♠ A 9 6 5 ♥ A J 6 5 ♦ 10 ♣ 8 6 5 3																																				
NORTH		EAST																																													
WEST	6	EAST																																													
SOUTH		EAST																																													
<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">7</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">15</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">9</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		7		15		9		9		♠ Q 8 7 4 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ K J 5 2 ♣ K 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">♥</td><td style="text-align: center;">♠</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table>							♣	♦	♥	♠	N	S	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	1	5	4	2	W	5	1	5	4	2
	7																																														
15		9																																													
	9																																														
♣	♦	♥	♠	N	S																																										
N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
E	5	1	5	4	2																																										
W	5	1	5	4	2																																										

Just the one board today, but one packed with opportunities and pitfalls.

After two passes, West will open a strong 1NT or an Acol 1♣.

### West opens a strong NT

East is in the hot seat. A speculative 2♣ looking for a major fit or hoping West has a maximum would be very tempting at Teams, but the two Summertown Easts opted to pass at Pairs. An easy 8 tricks.

### West opens 1♣ and North overcalls 1♦

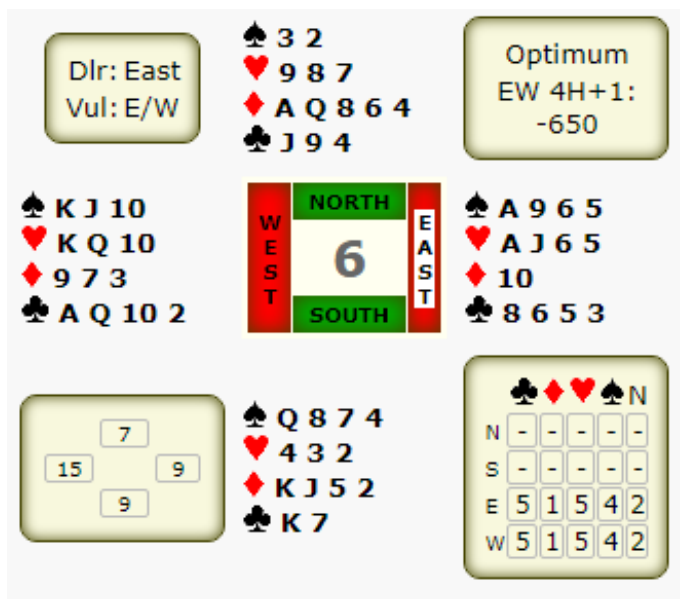
North should be tempted to bid. Why? North expects that the most likely contract is a major suit contract by East and at green vs red, 1♦ is lead directing. East has an easy negative double which most play as showing 4/4 in the majors. (At the two level, the negative double might be 3/4 or 4/3.)

What should South do? North could have up to about 13HCP. 3♦ is a powerful bid, bidding to the level of the fit (9+ ♦s). It puts West under pressure. 3♦ would come round to East, who should double for take out. West would do best to leave the double in. East/West walk away with +500. No good against East/West's theoretical vulnerable games, but they are not going to be bid.

Surprisingly, not one South bid 3♦. I wonder why not?

If South decides to bid only 2♦, then that must be the *only* bid that South makes. If South comes in again with a 3♦ or 4♦ later on, then East/West must double. Two bites of the cherry = certain death (though not at Summertown, where 4♦ two off undoubled was a real steal!)

Responses to an opening bid are very different to responses to an overcall. If North had opened 1♦, South would respond 1♠, bidding the major rather than supporting the minor. After a 1♦ overcall, South cannot/should not/must not bid 1♠. A change of suit must show a decent 5-card suit and is often played as invitational at the 1-level and forcing for one round at the 2-level. If South bids 1♠ here, North will lead a ♠ and allow an over-ambitious 3NT to romp home for a top. Welcome to the naughty step.



(diagram repeated for ease of reference)

### West opens 1♣ and North passes

East/West have an easier ride. East bids 1♥ (not 1♠ please, bid the cheaper of two 4-card suits), and West rebids 1NT. This is usually played these days as 15-17, not the old-fashioned 15-16. This gives East the opportunity to establish where West is in the 15-17 range as well as trying to find a major suit fit.

“Checkback” (a bid of 2♣ after a 1NT rebid) is often employed to find 5/3 and 4/4 major fits. That’s not needed here, as West would have supported ♥s with 4-card support and bid 1♠ with 4 spades. But if West has a good 16 or 17 points, then 3NT is on. There are many flavours of Checkback, but here 1♣-1♥-1NT-2♣\*-2♥- would usually show 3-card heart support and a hand with 15 or a poor 16 points. East/West sign off in 2NT.

Those pairs without the Checkback convention in their toy cupboard will have to invite via 1♣-1♥-1NT-2NT-?. West must refuse the invite. West has three 10s but they are cancelled out by the 4333 shape. Is there enough room on the naughty step?

James Bentley