

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 17 October 2022

First congratulations to Mary-Ann and Tim who achieved an almost impossible score of 76.8%.

I apologize if this is a rather over-personal bulletin as I decided before the event that I would note the hands where I had to make a choice between what I regarded as reasonable alternatives in bidding or play, and then see afterwards if it was correct or not.

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠ 10 9 7 ♥ J 10 5 4 3 ♦ K J 9 6 ♣ J	Optimum NS +130																																							
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Dlr: West Vul: E/W	♠ 9 5 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ 10 9 8 4	Optimum NS -110																																					
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We play 5-card majors and there is often a decision on a weakish hand with a 5-card major whether to open and rebid it, or open 1NT. On hand 2 I had this decision with the West hand, and decided to open 1♥, as the heart suit was reasonable and I just did not fancy 1NT. South bought the contract in clubs and I was briefly quite pleased with my decision, as I would get a heart lead. Same thing happened at two other tables. But at the other two, West opened 1NT and the opponents ended up in a hopeless 4♥! So that one was wrong.

On hand 16 it was my partner opening as West and she opened 1♠, hoping I would not bid 2♥. But I did, and rather than rebid these spades she bid 3♦, leading to the inevitable 3NT - a truly hopeless contract. And exactly the same happened at two other tables. At the other two, West still opened 1♠ but simply rebid 2♠, a reasonable contract. Had West opened 1NT, she would have been transferred to 2♥, just as reasonable. If you play 5-card majors, would you open 1NT with the West hand?

Dlr: North Vul: N/S	♠ J 10 9 8 4 ♥ A 4 3 2 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ 9	Optimum NS +140																																							
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On hand 5, as East I open 1♥, South bids 2♦ and my partner bids 3♦ showing a sound raise to at least 3♥. Do I bid four? In these circumstances I religiously count losers. Here I made it seven so took the cautious option. It turned out right this time, although 4♥ is not a bad contract. It needs at very least the club finesse so overall is a bit less than a 50% contract, it should be bid at teams scoring but best avoided in pairs.

Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

♠ A 5 3  
 ♥ 10 5 4  
 ♦ 10 7 6 5 3  
 ♣ 4 3

Optimum  
NS -110

♠ J 9 8 6  
 ♥ K 9 8 3  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A 9 8 7

WEST NORTH EAST  
 SOUTH 11 SOUTH

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

♠ Q 4 2  
 ♥ A 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 9 4  
 ♣ Q J 6

4  
 9 13  
 14

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

Valerie and James told us about a convention they play in pairs. If the opponents open 1NT, passed round, a double in the 4<sup>th</sup> position is for take-out, and you do it with any balanced hand on the basis that you must have at least 18 points between you and if you go down, you may still get a good result. Before this evening we decided to try this when we were not vulnerable. So what turns up on hand 11? South opened 1NT, pass, pass, double by me (will she remember? – of course she will). My partner alerted and bid 2♣, to get a good result. The same bidding at one other table – guess who.

I was East in 3NT with a lead of ♦2, which went round to the 10 and J. What to do? If the hearts don't break it looks hopeless, so let's assume they do. But I don't want to play them yet. Assuming the club honours are split, you can run the ♣Q and if it loses to the King, subsequently finesse against the Jack. Surely a 75% chance of 3 or even 4 club tricks. So I lost to the ♣K, diamond returned to ♦9 and South's ♦Q. South then cashed ♦A and switched to a club. (A low spade then would have defeated me as I would have misguessed and played ♠J.) I was so committed to my club plan, I almost played the 10 before realising that I now had two diamond tricks and therefore all I needed to do was go up with the ♣A and the rest of the tricks were mine (assuming of course the heart break). Phew!

Dlr: South  
 Vul: All

♠ Q 9 5 4  
 ♥ J 6 5  
 ♦ 10 8 7  
 ♣ K J 2

Optimum  
NS -620

♠ K J 8 7 2  
 ♥ K 8  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ A 10 9 6 5

WEST NORTH EAST  
 SOUTH 7 SOUTH

♠ - -  
 ♥ A Q 10 9 7 3  
 ♦ K J 9 6 5  
 ♣ Q 7

7  
 11 12  
 10

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

Is this the best way of playing this hand? I've no idea.