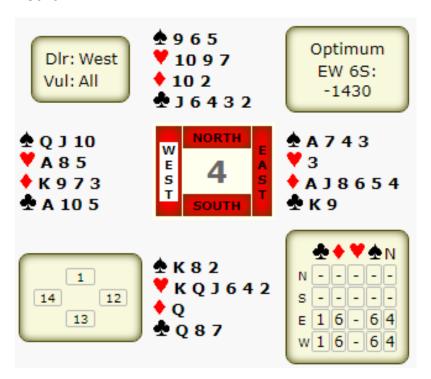
## **Summertown Bridge Bulletin 18 April 2022**

## **Board 4**



No one found the diamond slam. Many EWs played in 5 ♦ and others in 3NT.

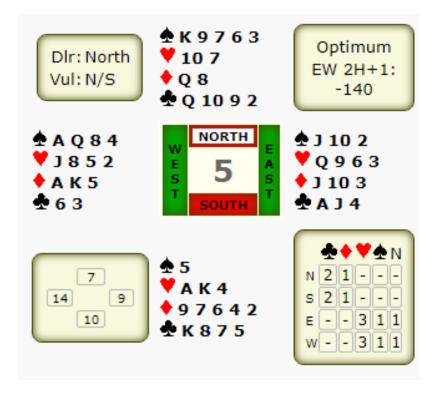
Could those Easts who committed to diamonds have reckoned, 'Well, 3NT is probably going to score better than 5♦, so we might as well be in slam'? Sound logic at pairs.

Unless you were Peter and his new best friend Mr Robot, the bidding should go 1NT-P-2♣-2 ▼-P-P- round to East. So, what do you fancy? 3 ♦, 4 ♦, or 3 ♥ asking for a heart stop? South should have a really good suit for a vulnerable overcall, so 3 ♥ seems risky. If so, don't you want to invite game with 4 ♦? After 1NT-P-2♣-2 ♥-P-P-4 ♦-P-, West knows East has four spades and six diamonds and should surely venture Blackwood? EW will coast to a making 6 ♦, caring not a jot about ♦ Q, or where the naughty ♠ K is hiding.

A veil must be drawn over those Souths who passed, those Wests who doubled 2♥ and those Norths who clicked any part of the screen that wasn't bright green.

Incidentally, how do you play 1NT-P-2♣-2♥-P-P-DBL by East? Penalties or take out? Have you agreed what it means in your partnership?

## **Board 5**



Question: What's the major benefit of playing a weak NT?

Answer: Easy. It's pre-emptive.

Question: So why do we let our opponents play in 1NT so often?

Answer: I haven't a clue.

We played a social game last month where our friends (and opponents) bid aggressively in the pass-out seat after 1NT-P-P- or P-1NT-P-P-

We looked back over every 1NT contract by opener played this year at all the pairs sessions we've played in online. In around 2/3 of the boards, an intervention would have worked.

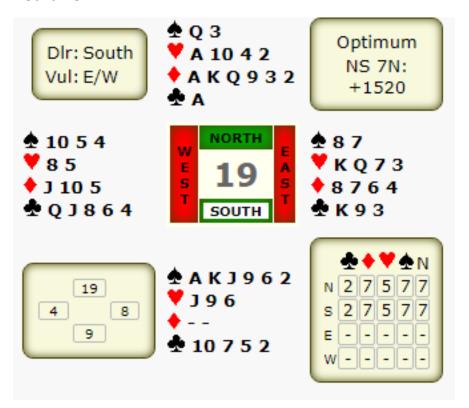
I'm not talking about hands with a decent 5-card suit, I'm talking about yucky hands like the one South has here.

The idea (and I'm **NOT** suggesting it is the way **YOU** should play) is that in the pass-out (protective) position, South bids a five card suit or otherwise doubles with, say, 8 HCP not vulnerable and 10 HCP vulnerable. It's essentially a wriggle.

If South bids 2 ◆, NS might be left there or EW may compete and regret it. If South doubles, North bids 4+ card suits up the line and NS would end up in 2 ♣. EW may compete and regret it unless they have a system to deal with these cheeky bids. Most partnerships don't.

After an intervention of this nature, is a double by East for penalties or take out? Discuss.

## Board 19



Let's finish with one of the easiest\* Grand Slam boards you could hope to find.

The astute South (I like it, Sara) judges that this is a 1♠ opening hand. Most club members preferred 2♠. After a 1♠ opening,North is now slamming, and the bidding goes:

1 - 2 - 2 (only promises 5 spades)-4NT (RKCB)-5 ♥ (2 key cards, no Q)-6 ♠ (I can't be sure I don't have a spade loser)-7 ♠ (Partner doesn't know how good my spades are).

I don't think the 5NT King ask Grand Slam try is useful here, as North is not interested in Kings and just wants a 6<sup>th</sup> spade.

One pair opened a dodgy  $3 \spadesuit$ . Actually, after  $3 \spadesuit$  (which should promise 7 spades in  $1^{st}$  and  $2^{nd}$  seat), NS should bid the Grand almost automatically:  $3 \spadesuit -4NT-5 \checkmark -7 \spadesuit$ . North can count at least 14 tricks.

7NT also makes as the cards lie, but is not a sound contract, as South may need to ruff out a diamond, keeping A. as an entry.

<sup>\*</sup> I jest!