

Summertown Bridge Bulletin 18 April 2022

Board 4

Dlr: West Vul: All	♠ 9 6 5 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 10 2 ♣ J 6 4 3 2	Optimum EW 6S: -1430																																							
♠ Q J 10 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ K 9 7 3 ♣ A 10 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">WEST</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">NORTH</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">W</td><td style="background-color: yellow; color: black; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">4</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">S</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">SOUTH</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">T</td></tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	W	4	E	S	SOUTH	T	♠ A 7 4 3 ♥ 3 ♦ A J 8 6 5 4 ♣ K 9																														
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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

Dlr: North
 Vul: N/S

♠ K 9 7 6 3
 ♥ 10 7
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ Q 10 9 2

Optimum
 EW 2H+1:
 -140

♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ J 8 5 2
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ 6 3

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 5

♠ J 10 2
 ♥ Q 9 6 3
 ♦ J 10 3
 ♣ A J 4

♠ 5
 ♥ A K 4
 ♦ 9 7 6 4 2
 ♣ K 8 7 5

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

Trick count: 7, 14, 9, 10

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

Dlr: South
 Vul: E/W

Optimum
 NS 7N:
 +1520

♠ Q 3
 ♥ A 10 4 2
 ♦ A K Q 9 3 2
 ♣ A

♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ J 10 5
 ♣ Q J 8 6 4

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 19

♠ 8 7
 ♥ K Q 7 3
 ♦ 8 7 6 4
 ♣ K 9 3

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

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	7	5	7	7
S	2	7	5	7	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

19
 4 8
 9

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 6th spade.

One pair opened a dodgy 3♠. Actually, after 3♠ (which should promise 7 spades in 1st and 2nd seat), NS should bid the Grand almost automatically: 3♠-4NT-5♥-7♠. 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.

* I jest!

James Bentley