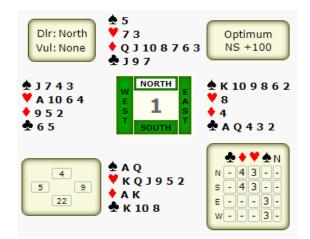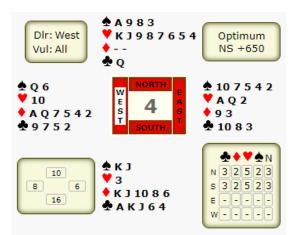# Summertown Bridge Bulletin 19 December 2022

You are extraordinarily privileged to have this bulletin written by half of a pair that scored less than 40%. I do hope these valuable insights about what not to do will set you up for Christmas…

	♠ 5	
Dlr: North	♥ 7 3	**Optimum**
Vul: None	♦ Q J 10 8 7 6 3	**NS +100**
	♣ J 9 7	

♠ J 7 4 3	NORTH	♠ K 10 9 8 6 2
♥ A 10 6 4	**1**	♥ 8
♦ 9 5 2		♦ 4
♣ 6 5	SOUTH	♣ A Q 4 3 2

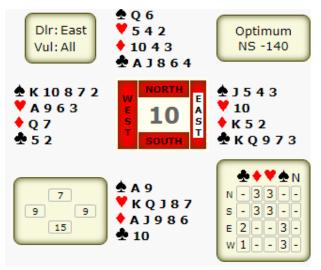|	♠ A Q		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
4	♥ K Q J 9 5 2		N - 4 3 - -
5 9	♦ A K		S - 4 3 - -
22	♣ K 10 8		E - - - 3 -
			W - - - 3 -

North opens a frisky not vulnerable 3♦ and South decides that even though she has no small diamond, 22 HCP surely justifies 3NT. I would have bid 3NT too.

NS (that's us) score = 0%

	♠ A 9 8 3	
Dlr: West	♥ K J 9 8 7 6 5 4	**Optimum**
Vul: All	♦ - -	**NS +650**
	♣ Q	

♠ Q 6	NORTH	♠ 10 7 5 4 2
♥ 10	**4**	♥ A Q 2
♦ A Q 7 5 4 2		♦ 9 3
♣ 9 7 5 2	SOUTH	♣ 10 8 3

	♠ K J		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
10	♥ 3		N 3 2 5 2 3
8 6	♦ K J 10 8 6		S 3 2 5 2 3
16	♣ A K J 6 4		E - - - - -
			W - - - - -

West opens 2♦; North doubles to bring spades into play as well as hearts (I'd have bid 4♥) and South leaves the double in. 3 off doubled for -800 wasn't ideal with all other NS pairs making their heart game + 1.

EW (that's us) score = 0%

On this board EW had two opportunities to snatch a poor result. After South opens 1♥, should West bid? It's not ideal, but 1♠ looks normal. Bringing spades into play is usually a good idea.

If West passes, North bids 1NT and now East, as a passed hand with 4 spades, can double for take out (alerted). South bids 2♦ and now over to West. Having passed first time around, West must now jump to 3♠ with a guaranteed 9-card fit. Unfortunately, not at our table…
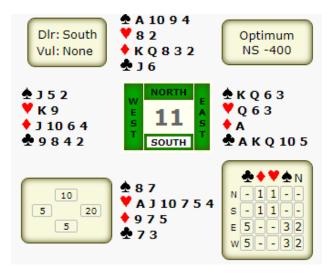
EW (that's us) defended 3♥, score = 12%

South leads ♥J against 3NT (note: not 4th highest). Should declarer call for ♥K or ♥9?

There are two options. Play ♥9, giving up on the possibility of two heart tricks (unless South *has* led 4th highest… which is why you shouldn't do it from this holding!), but ensuring that East will win the third round of hearts. Then, if North has ♠A, he will have no heart to lead.

The second option, chosen by both Wests who got the ♥J lead, is to rise with ♥K and hope that South has ♠A, making ♥Q a second heart stopper. This possible layout would garner two heart tricks and looked attractive. But, as they say, OH NO IT WASN'T!

EW (that's us) managed 3NT-2, score = 0%

Extract from end of year report for Pair 1

Headmaster	Overall performance	*Pretty ghastly* *Could do better*

James Bentley