

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 19 July 2021

Lots of part-scores giving very different results according to the accuracy or otherwise of defence and dummy play. I suspect that the hot weather we're currently having leads to lapses in concentration on the little hands, which at pairs scoring of course are just as important as the big ones.

Dlr: South Vul: E/W	♠K10974 ♥KJ9 ♦K8 ♣A63	Optimum NS 2S; +110																																							
♠A65 ♥Q73 ♦AQ632 ♣Q8	W North East e 3 a s t	♠QJ ♥A6542 ♦974 ♣J109																																							
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W	-	2	1	-	1																																				

Look at board 3. Most commonly W opens 1NT and in three cases gets transferred to 2♥, which certainly should not make. In all other cases North plays in spades, making between 5 and 8 tricks. You can see the problem – East leads ♣J, dummy takes with the King, say, but now what? Many followed the tempting line to play for the missing Q and J of trumps to be split, finessing ♠10 and presumably later the ♠9. But in this case there is unlikely to be a ‘later’ as dummy has no more certain entries, so if you lead trumps then it is surely better to play the King straight away? Or do something else with this opportunity, like finesse the ♥10 (which works out well here, as later you can ruff to get another entry in dummy).

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠A102 ♥K1096 ♦98 ♣K432	Optimum EW 4Sx; +500																																							
♠K985 ♥A ♦KJ106 ♣J1076	W North East e 2 a s t	♠7643 ♥QJ5 ♦Q753 ♣Q8																																							
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W	-	1	-	1	-																																				

And more hot weather problems affecting the defence on Board 2? Mostly EW play in 2♣, making between 6 and 8 tricks. It looks as if you must lose three trumps, a diamond and two clubs, but 8 tricks were made three times.

Dlr: East  
 Vul: None

♠KQ2  
 ♥85  
 ♦J532  
 ♣K1075

Optimum  
 EW 6H;  
 -980

♠A73  
 ♥AQ109432  
 ♦A4  
 ♣9

West North East  
 South 14

♠J109  
 ♥KJ7  
 ♦76  
 ♣AQ862

♠8654  
 ♥6  
 ♦KQ1098  
 ♣J43

	9		
14		11	
	6		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	2	-	6	2	5
W	2	-	6	2	5

Board 14 - not surprisingly, every West is in 4♥. Most Norths led ♠K, which is obviously helpful as you only now lose one spade trick. You can quite safely finesse the ♣Q, as if it doesn't work you can later throw the losing diamond on the Ace (using the trump entry). It does work, so everyone should make 12 tricks after this opening lead. Only a diamond lead makes this finesse a gamble.

Dlr: West  
 Vul: All

♠32  
 ♥K86  
 ♦QJ108  
 ♣9752

Optimum  
 EW 6S;  
 -1430

♠KQJ974  
 ♥--  
 ♦A743  
 ♣1084

West North East  
 South 4

♠A10865  
 ♥A95  
 ♦K95  
 ♣AK

♠--  
 ♥QJ107432  
 ♦62  
 ♣QJ63

	6		
10		18	
	6		

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	1	5	-	6	5
W	1	4	-	6	5

Dlr: East  
 Vul: E/W

♠4  
 ♥Q8  
 ♦6432  
 ♣AKJ984

Optimum  
 EW 1N;  
 -90

♠QJ107  
 ♥A32  
 ♦Q98  
 ♣Q75

West North East  
 South 6

♠A5  
 ♥KJ54  
 ♦J75  
 ♣10632

♠K98632  
 ♥10976  
 ♦AK10  
 ♣--

	10		
11		9	
	10		

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

For something different let's look at the opening bids on boards 4 and 6. What would you bid as West (dealer) on hand 4; and as South (after dealer passes) on hand 6?

On hand 4, those that opened 1♠ sailed into an easy small slam (except me and my partner, who sailed into an impossible grand.) Those who opened a weak 2♠, missed the slam. But on hand 6, those who opened 1♠ could not avoid getting to the 3 level on this misfit. One is often advised not to open a weak two on a hand with four of the other major. Well, one South did indeed pass, and gained a top as every contract went down.

I've had a thought, maybe it wasn't the hot weather, but the excitement of 'Freedom Day'. Or maybe not.

*Cliff Pavelin*