

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 19 September 2022

Only eight pairs this evening, congratulations to Sandra and Krysl, the only pair over 60%.

Dlr: East
 Vul: None

♠ Q 9
 ♥ Q 9 6
 ♦ K 10 2
 ♣ A 10 9 5 2

Optimum NS -140

♠ A K 2
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ K Q 6 4 3

W NORTH E
 S 14 A
 T SOUTH T

♠ 8 7 6 5
 ♥ J 10 8 4 2
 ♦ A Q 4
 ♣ J

11
 16 8
 5

♠ J 10 4 3
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ J 8 7 5
 ♣ 8 7

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

On Board 14, normally West plays in 1NT making 6, 7 or 8 tricks. But in one case East was rather ambitious and managed to get to 3NT.

It looks as if there are nine tricks available: two club tricks, two diamonds (given the finesse), two spades and three hearts, after losing the King and Queen, and using the two diamond entries to dummy. But one North led ♠Q, enabling the defenders to set up two spade tricks in addition to two hearts and a club before the declarer can take her

hearts. And twice North led a diamond – avoiding the club lead after East had opened 1♣. Again declarer cannot win. If she plays ♦Q she is an entry short to set up the hearts. And if she plays small (as both declarers did), South takes the J♦ and can return a spade and again declarer cannot prevail. But one North led a club and declarer – the only one in 3NT – was home.

Now for Board 18. How I hate this hand. I played in 3NT, as did two others, and made 10 tricks. And the others made 12 tricks. You hope partner doesn't notice.

So, 3NT by West, everyone gets a spade lead and takes it with the Ace. Where do you start? Not with a heart; if they take the ♥A and lead another spade and then the club finesse fails (or you play top clubs and the Queen does not drop), their spades are set up and you

are likely one off. So you start with the clubs and the finesse works. Unless North is playing a crafty game, the clubs are now safe, but you need to take the finesse again in case South has four to the Queen. Next, a heart to the Jack to set that suit up as well.

Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

♠ Q J 9 6 5
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ 8 5 2

Optimum NS -980

♠ 4
 ♥ K Q 6 4 3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K J 10 6 3

W NORTH E
 S 18 A
 T SOUTH T

♠ A K 7 3
 ♥ J 10
 ♦ A J 7 3 2
 ♣ 7 4

5
 13 13
 9

♠ 10 8 2
 ♥ A 8 5
 ♦ K 10 9 8 4
 ♣ Q 9

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	3	6	2	5
W	6	2	6	2	5

South holds off, of course. Now I must carry on with another heart, but for some reason I didn't. I took the club finesse again, and now there are only ten tricks, because my hearts are useless. If I lead another heart and South holds up again, I would make 11 tricks (which is what the rubric says). Still a bottom, but at least I would have tried.

Dlr: South
Vul: N/S

♠ Q 10 9 3
♥ A K 10 6 5
♦ 7
♣ K 8 5

Optimum
NS +130

♠ A K 8 7 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 5
♣ 9 7 3 2

WEST NORTH EAST
SOUTH

♠ J 6 5
♥ Q 4 3
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ A J 10

♠ 4
♥ J 9
♦ A Q J 10 8 3 2
♣ Q 6 4

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

12
7 11
10

Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

♠ 9 6 5 3 2
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ 10
♣ A 8 4

Optimum
NS -400

♠ A K 10 7 4
♥ K 6
♦ J 2
♣ K 7 5 3

WEST NORTH EAST
SOUTH

♠ 8
♥ J 7 5 4
♦ A K Q 9 8 7 5
♣ 6

♠ Q J
♥ A 10 2
♦ 6 4 3
♣ Q J 10 9 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	5	1	1	3
W	-	5	1	1	3

6
14 10
10

Look at hands 15 and 21 together. On hand 15, two Souths, as dealer, opened a rather too strong pre-empt, 3♦. And had shared tops as those opening 1♦, were inevitably taken by partner to 3NT, and this goes one or two off. Whereas on hand 21, the one East (second in hand this time) opening 3♦ had a bottom, as the other three pairs all made 3NT.

The play in 3NT is interesting. At two tables, North led a small heart, and South, seeing seven diamond tricks in dummy, took the Ace and switched to the ♣Q. Worrying for declarer, but at both tables they refused to play the King three times and the defence could take only three club tricks and the heart. Well done them.

Lastly, here's hand 13. The only interest in this hand is that one pair bid 6♥ which, despite the cards in the other suits looking good for you, is apparently doomed by East's trump holding. Surely East must make two trump tricks, unless she leads them? But the computer analysis shows that the slam can be made by either North or South. An end-play in trumps, I'll leave you to work it out.

Dlr: North
Vul: All

♠ A J
♥ A 8 3 2
♦ K 2
♣ A Q J 8 3

Optimum
NS +1440

♠ K 10 7 6 3
♥ 7
♦ Q 3
♣ K 10 9 7 5

WEST NORTH EAST
SOUTH

♠ 9 5 4
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ 6 2

♠ Q 8 2
♥ K 9 5 4
♦ A J 10 8 6
♣ 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	6	6	3	6
S	4	6	6	3	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

19
8 3
10

Cliff Pavein