

Summertown Bridge Bulletin No. 2

Monday 9 November

Dir: North
Vul: None

Optimum
NS 7N:
+1520

♠ K
♥ K 10 9 8 6 5 4
♦ A 10 9 3
♣ Q

♠ 10 9 6 5 2
♥ - -
♦ K Q J 8 7
♣ 9 7 2

NORTH
WEST 1 EAST
SOUTH

♠ J 8
♥ Q J
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 10 8 6 5 4 3

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ 4
♣ A K J

		12	
6			4
		18	

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

How do you play splinters? You can play a splinter as a limited hand – no slam ambitions unless opener is better than minimum and the splinter is in the right suit. Jacoby is then EITHER a limited raise to 4H with no singleton OR a stronger hand that wants to find out more and take control of the auction. It doesn't deny a singleton.

Or you can play splinters as unlimited. (thanks to Steven Bliss for above)

You can also play cue bids as ace-showing or Italian (first round control), so there are many bidding routes to slam.

Vital for North to respond 5S (2 key cards AND QH) to RKC/B 4NT because, with an 11-card fit, QH is irrelevant.

South can then consider the grand slam. Only one pair reached 7H.

Dir: East
Vul: N/S

Optimum
EW 5Dx,EW
5Cx: +500

♠ K 6 4 3
♥ A Q 8 6 3
♦ 6
♣ 7 6 4

♠ Q J
♥ K 9 2
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ A 9 5 2

NORTH
WEST 2 EAST
SOUTH

♠ 9
♥ J 7 5 4
♦ A 10 9 8 2
♣ Q J 3

♠ A 10 8 7 5 2
♥ 10
♦ J 7 5
♣ K 10 8

		9	
15			8
		8	

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

2S is a normal opening for South and, if West doubles, North has to choose between 3S and 4S. The technical answer is probably 3S as EW are not going to be bidding 4H.

KD looks like the best lead. East has to overtake and lead clubs. QS is a tempting lead against 4S, but against 3S, might declarer be missing 4 trumps and planning a finesse?

Dir: North
Vul: N/S

Optimum
EW 3N:
-400

♠ A 9
♥ K 10 8 4
♦ 9 6 4
♣ Q 6 4 3

♠ J 5 3
♥ Q 7 6
♦ A K Q J
♣ 8 7 5

NORTH
WEST 5 EAST
SOUTH

♠ Q 8
♥ A J 9 5 2
♦ 10 3 2
♣ A J 9

♠ K 10 7 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ 8 7 5
♣ K 10 2

		9	
13			12
		6	

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

Which camp are you in? Sitting East and playing weak NT, do you open 1H or 1NT? And do you, as South, bid 1S or 2S? Unopposed, strong no-trumpers are going to end up in 3NT.

Many would consider a vulnerable 2S (or some artificial bid showing 6 cards) as unsound over 1NT, but interference here scuppers the winning 1NT-3NT auction. As does 1S or 2S over 1 1H opening bid.

A putative victory for those of us Robson fans who open 1NT?

Dlr: South
 Vul: All
 Optimum NS 1N+1: +120

♠ --
 ♥ 10 6 5
 ♦ Q 8 6 4 2
 ♣ A K Q 8 5

♠ 7 3
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ K J 10 7
 ♣ J 10 7 3 2

NORTH 7 SOUTH

♠ Q 9 8 5 4
 ♥ Q 8 7 3
 ♦ A 9 5
 ♣ 6

11 8 13

♠ A K J 10 6 2
 ♥ A J 9 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 9 4

N	2	2	2	2
S	2	2	2	2
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

What rebid do you fancy as South after 1S-2C?

Many will have been taught that it is technically better to show the 4-card heart suit than rebidding spades. North can then pass. If South chooses to rebid 2S, North can again choose to pass.

It seems that many Norths were excited by those tasty clubs. Only one pair settled for the making 2H contract and no one played in 2S. The rest of room crashed out in a selection of doomed game contracts.

Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W
 Optimum NS 7Dx: -800

♠ K 9 7 5
 ♥ --
 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 4
 ♣ J 6 4

♠ 2
 ♥ K 9 8 7 6 4 3 2
 ♦ 10
 ♣ K 10 3

NORTH 9 SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 4 3
 ♥ A Q J 5
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 8 7

7 6 9

♠ A 8 6
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K 9 8 3 2
 ♣ Q 9 5 2

N	-	3	-	-
S	-	3	-	-
E	-	-	6	1 5
W	-	-	6	1 5

Another matter of style for North. Purists would pass with the 4-card spade suit and EW have an easy route to 5H. Finding out about the singleton spade is tricky to find 6H.

If North ventures a weak 2D, East doubles, South raises preemptively to 5D, West clicks on 5H and East, pausing for a sip of wine, bids 6H. North, regretting that the opposition are not all grandmasters, decides that the obvious 7D sacrifice is unwise when most of the room will be in 5H.

Dlr: West
 Vul: None
 Optimum NS 5Hx: -100

♠ 8 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 6 4
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A 6 4 3

♠ A Q 10 9 5
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 10 8 6
 ♣ K 7 5

NORTH 8 SOUTH

♠ K J 2
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ 9 4
 ♣ Q J 10 9 8

6 13 10 11

♠ 7
 ♥ A J 9 8 7 2
 ♦ K Q J 7 3
 ♣ 2

N	-	1	4	-
S	-	1	4	-
E	4	-	-	4
W	4	-	-	3

The computer tells us that 5H is a phantom sacrifice, but who cares when our chairman/her partner can bring in 5H doubled?

Dlr: East
 Vul: All
 Optimum EW 3N+2: -660

♠ Q 9 7 3
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ Q 8 4 2

♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ A K
 ♦ Q 9 7 5 4 2
 ♣ K 3

NORTH 10 SOUTH

♠ A K 8 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A K J 6
 ♣ J 9 7 5

4 12 16 8

♠ J 6
 ♥ Q J 8 6 5 4 3
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A 10 6

N	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	1	-
E	3	5	-	4 5
W	3	5	-	4 5

Ah! The 4144 debate. What does East open? EBU says 1D, Robson says 1C. We like to open the weaker of clubs and diamonds – then the opposition don't lead clubs (this agreement has to be on our system card).

After a 1D opening bid, EW will struggle to avoid the inferior 5D contract. The alternative auction of 1C-1D-1S-2NT-3NT works nicely here.

Dlr: West
Vul: N/S

♠ 10 9 8 5
♥ 10 7
♦ A K J 9 7 3
♣ 4

Optimum
EW 4Hx,EW
5Cx: +100

♠ K Q J 6 4 3
♥ 6 4
♦ Q 5
♣ Q 6 2

NORTH
WEST 12 EAST
SOUTH

♠ 2
♥ K Q J 9 8 3
♦ 4
♣ A K 10 9 8

♠ A 7
♥ A 5 2
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ J 7 5 3

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

8
10 13
9

Defending a heart contract, North will win the first diamond trick. North has to switch to the club singleton in the hope that partner has AC, AH or AS. Good odds defending 3H, may be less so defending 4H.

Trying to cash the AD makes declarer's life easy, though those spades in dummy do look threatening, don't they. In Teams, it would have to be the 4C on the second trick.

Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

♠ K 10 7 2
♥ Q 2
♦ 9 8 7 3 2
♣ Q 4

Optimum
EW 4H:
-420

♠ A Q 3
♥ J 9 7 6 4
♦ J 5
♣ 7 6 3

NORTH
WEST 18 EAST
SOUTH

♠ J 4
♥ A K 8 5
♦ A K 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 4
♣ A K J 9 2

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

7
8 15
10

And finally, a squeeze.

East, as declarer, loses the first three tricks to South's clubs and is tempted to claim, but decides to play it out to make it easier for the defence to understand.

Declarer wins the fourth trick whatever South leads, clears trumps and crosses to AS, shunning the finesse. All the trumps are led out. Declarer carefully unblocks 8H.

On the last trump, North is squeezed, protecting both spades and diamonds.

James Bentley

Dlr: West
Vul: E/W

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ A Q 10 8 7
♦ 6
♣ 9 6 5

Optimum
NS 4S:
+420

♠ A Q J
♥ K J 4
♦ 9 8 5
♣ Q J 10 4

NORTH
WEST 16 EAST
SOUTH

♠ 9
♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ K J 10 3 2
♣ K 7 3

♠ K 10 7 4 3
♥ 9
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ A 8 2

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

6
14 7
13

No one will be bidding 4S, but can declarer harvest 10 tricks?

The heart finesse is essential. Declarer cannot risk the diamond finesse with two losing clubs, so cashes AD and leads to QH. A cross ruff follows and declarer must toss the last club on the fourth round of hearts. EW only win their 3 spade tricks.

Only one NS pair made the ten tricks.