

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 20 February 2023

Hello, this is Steven again. I couldn't play last night (heavy cold), and only eight pairs did. Congratulations to Kry's & Sandra, the winners with 65%, and Kati & Tunde, who came second with 61%. They weren't the most interesting hands I've ever seen (several games where everyone got to the obvious contract, and any makeable slams weren't quite biddable). I've chosen three boards which show a variety of approaches to awkward situations.

Dir: North Vul: N/S	♠ A 3 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ 8 2 ♣ K Q 9 8 4 2	Optimum NS -120																																		
♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ Q J 8 6 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ J 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px;">W</td><td style="width: 60px; text-align: center;">NORTH</td><td style="width: 20px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">SOUTH</td><td style="width: 20px;">T</td></tr> </table>	W	NORTH	E	5			S	5	T	T	SOUTH	T	♠ K J 6 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ K 7 6 5 ♣ A 10 6																						
W	NORTH	E																																		
5																																				
S	5	T																																		
T	SOUTH	T																																		
<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4</td></tr> </table>	13	12	11	4	♠ 10 7 5 2 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ J 10 9 4 ♣ 5 3	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">♣</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">♥</td><td style="text-align: center;">♠</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">-</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	2	2	2	W	-	2	2	2	2
13																																				
12	11																																			
4																																				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																															
N	1	-	-	-	-																															
S	1	-	-	-	-																															
E	-	2	2	2	2																															
W	-	2	2	2	2																															

First, here's Board 5. The bidding started the same way at all four tables: North opened 1♣, West doubled after two passes, and North bid the clubs again. What should East do?

Sandra doubled, showing values and asking partner to choose, and this led to a contract of 2♥, which was as good as anything. (It can be held to 8 tricks if North gets a spade ruff, but this defence wasn't found.) Betty bid 2NT, which is reasonable: the computer can make this, because it knows where all the cards are, but it actually went one off. Two pairs bid diamonds, one making 2♦, the other going off in 3♦. An awkward hand!

Dir: East  
Vul: E/W

♠ K 10  
♥ 7 5 4  
♦ Q J 7 3  
♣ K 8 5 4

Optimum  
NS +400

♠ J 9 6 2  
♥ J 10 8 2  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ Q 9

W NORTH  
E 6  
S SOUTH  
T

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

9  
4 12  
15

♠ Q 8 4 3  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ A  
♣ A J 7 6 3

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

When I do these commentaries, I like to guess what people might do, and then see what actually happened. On Board 6 I got it totally wrong! I thought that East would open 1NT, South would double (it's marginal), West would start a rescue, and EW would go at least two off doubled in whatever suit they chose, giving NS a very good score.

Robert & Amr started like this, but decided to play in 3NT rather than take the (actually higher) penalty from 2♥ doubled; 3NT just making gave them a top. The next best NS score came when 1NT was passed

out, going three off. One pair played in a natural 2♣ overall by South, making 10 tricks. The last pair bid a conventional 2♣ (Landy, I think) from South and ended in a strange, and unsuccessful, 3♥ contract.

Finally, on Board 10, everyone opened 1♣ with the South hand and everyone ended up in 3NT, usually by South. Two players made 12 tricks and two only made 8! The successful players got a heart lead from East, which was harmless, or a diamond lead from West on which East failed to play the Jack. They both then had ample time to play top clubs, losing only a club trick (West is under a lot of pressure when clubs are run). The unsuccessful players got a diamond lead, correctly ducked, but then played on spades not clubs. When spades didn't break, they hoped that clubs would break 2-2 and went off. It seems best to play on clubs first, while you still have entries to the South hand.

Dir: East  
Vul: All

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

Optimum  
NS +1440

♠ J 10 8 4  
♥ J 8 2  
♦ K Q 7 6 4  
♣ 5

W NORTH  
E 10  
S SOUTH  
T

♠ 7 5  
♥ 10 7 6 5 4 3  
♦ J 9  
♣ Q J 8

13  
7 4  
16

♠ A K  
♥ Q 9  
♦ 10 5 3  
♣ A K 10 9 6 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	6	2	1	4	6
S	6	2	1	4	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-