

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 20 June 2022

Dir: North  
Vul: None

♠ 10 9 5 4  
♥ Q 7 3  
♦ K Q  
♣ K 10 9 2

Optimum  
EW 6H:  
-980

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

NORTH  
WEST 1 EAST  
SOUTH

♠ J 6  
♥ K J 6  
♦ J 10 9 4 3  
♣ A 6 3

10  
15 10  
5

♠ K Q 8 7 3 2  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ 8 7 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	2	6	6	-	3
W	2	6	6	-	3

A board for well-worn bridge maxims, which were not always followed. I am told that the best-selling **Summertown Bridge Club Guide to Bridge Maxims** is out of print.

**Third Seat Openings can be Light.** South actually has a normal 2♠ opener, but if West bids (or supinely passes: *With 15 HCP, Say Something*) North should Bid to the Level of the Fit, i.e. 4♠. The weaker South might be, the more important it is to bid 4♠. If in doubt, *If 2nd Seat Doubles or Overcalls, 3rd Seat should Stretch*. And of course, *With a Weak Responding Hand Bid Once, then Shut Up*. Some Norths bid 3♠ then 4♠. *Don't Take Two Bites of the Cherry*. Unless of course, *If your Opponents Never Double, You Have a Licence to Overbid*.

*If it is Your Hand, don't let them Play Undoubled.* East-West must double 4♠, irrespective of whether they were allowed to get to 4♥ or not. Even *The Robots are not Infallible*.

What to lead?

Against 4♠/4♠\* by South, *Don't Lead an Unsupported Ace*. Of course, *Don't underlead an Ace*. And although not relevant here, *Don't underlead a King*. Q♣ is the normal choice.

Against 4♥ by West, *Lead K♦ from KQ Doubleton (Lead K♦ from AK Doubleton)*. If you choose to lead partner's spades, *A Lead of the 9 denies the 10*.

As you can see, East-West can make 12 tricks if allowed to play in hearts. 4♠ normally made 7 tricks for a very good score if undoubled, and a very bad one if doubled.

Dir: South Vul: E/W	♠ 10 6 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 8 6 3 2 ♣ Q 9 5 3 2	Optimum EW 1N+1: -120																																							
♠ 9 8 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ A 10 9 7 4 ♣ 10 6 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="background-color: green; color: white;">WEST</td><td style="background-color: green; color: white;">NORTH</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: green; color: white;">WEST</td><td style="background-color: green; color: white;">SOUTH</td><td style="background-color: red; color: white;">EAST</td></tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST		3		WEST	SOUTH	EAST	♠ A K 4 3 2 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ A J 7																														
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Another board for well-worn bridge maxims, which were not always followed. The best-selling **Summertown Bridge Club Guide to Bridge Maxims** must be reprinted soon or made available online.

It is dangerous for South to open 1♥ (playing weak NT). ***With two Honour Doubletons, open 1NT if your Second suit is Higher-Ranked. Borrow a King in 4th seat*** (the pass-out or cheat seat). Here East must bid 2♠ over 1NT, and would do so even without A♣. ***Don't let Them Play in One of a Major*** (although it can be right at Pairs to leave in 1♣ and 1♦). Even if you play a system like Multi-Landy in 2nd seat, where 2♠ would be 5 spades and at least 4 of a minor, ***Playing 2-suited overcalls, bid naturally in 4th seat.***

One North-South pair was allowed to play in 1NT and, despite missing all four Aces, managed to make 10 tricks for a near top (outdone only by the pair who had the pleasure of defending against 4♦ by West). Everyone else played in either 1♠ or 2♠ by East, making anywhere between 6 and 9 tricks.

Dir: West Vul: All	♠ 2 ♥ A 10 6 5 2 ♦ K J 6 2 ♣ 7 6 3	Optimum NS 5H: +650																																		
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Quite a number of Souths doubled East's opening bid of 1♠. My well-thumbed copy of **Summertown Bridge Club Guide to Bridge Maxims** says that a **2nd seat double should satisfy SOS: Shortage, Opening Points, Support for the unbid suits**. The exception is that **Hands of 17/18 HCPs should Double with Any Shape**.

See what should happen if South has ignored this useful guideline and doubles. West should pass but some might (did) bid 1NT. 1NT serves no purpose, especially vulnerable. North is now confused. South cannot have spade shortage unless East has at least seven spades. South cannot have 16/17 HCP unless East has opened very light. North must **Cue Bid the Opponents Suit to Show General Strength** and, here, 2♠ implies heart support. North is too strong to bid 3♥, the level of the (assumed) fit.

Now when East-West bid on to 3♠ or 4♠, North-South will double. The suspect double in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat delivers a top. As it says on page 576, **A Really Bad Bid will Work Some of the Time**.

What to lead?

Against 3/4♠ by East, Q♥ is the standard lead from QJx or QJxx.

All tables played the hand in either 3♠ or 4♠, undoubled. Most declarers made the 8 tricks that the analysis suggests they "should". The pair of robots stopped in 3♠ but made only 6 tricks, thereby proving once more that **The Robots are not Infallible**.

*James Bentley*