

# Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 20 September 2021

## Board 3

The interface displays the following information:

- Hand 1 (Top):**
  - Dir: South, Vul: E/W
  - Optimum N 2H: +110
  - ♠ K 10 8 7 2, ♥ A K 10, ♦ A 8 7, ♣ J 2
- Hand 2 (Middle):**
  - ♠ J 6 3, ♥ 9 8 6, ♦ 4, ♣ A Q 10 8 4 3
  - WEST: 3, SOUTH: 3
  - ♠ A Q 9, ♥ 5 4 3, ♦ K J 9 6 5, ♣ 7 6
- Hand 3 (Bottom):**
  - ♠ 5 4, ♥ Q J 7 2, ♦ Q 10 3 2, ♣ K 9 5
  - Score: 15, 7, 10, 8
  - Trick-taking grid:
 

N	-	1	2	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	2	-	-	1	-
W	2	-	-	1	-
- Bidding Table (Right):**

NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-	Play
1	10	2♠	N	♣7	7		50	11	7	Play
3	2	3NT	N	♦6	6	150	3	15		Play
4	17	3♣	W	♥A	8	100		16	2	Play
5	19	2♥	S	♦4	5	150	3	15		Play
7	6	2♣	W	♥A	9	380	0	18		Play
8	16	2♥	S	♦4	7	50	11	7		Play
9	13	2NT	S	♣8	6	100	6	12		Play
11	18	2NT	N	♦6	7	50	11	7		Play
12	14	2♦	E	♠5	6	200		18	0	Play
20	15	2♠	N	♣7	7	50	11	7		Play

Look at the traveller and you could be forgiven for thinking the final contracts were handed out in the 2021 *Summertown Secret Santa* pairs event. But no, Christmas is still some way off.

### First of all, the **bidding**.

Playing weak NT, North will open 1♠. Should East bid 2♦? A vulnerable 2-level overcall should really have a 6 card suit, but if you know your opponents never double for penalties, some will risk it. Here 2♦ undoubled is not much fun. If East does jump into the deep end with 2♦, should West let him sink? Yes. 3♣ should be invitational and West's hand is not strong enough.

If East is behaving himself, the bidding will start 1♠-P-1N-. Now West has twitchy fingers and wants to tell his partner he has lovely clubs. But he may well be on lead and, vulnerable, is quite weak.

If West comes in with 2♣, North should reopen with a double. Now NS cannot find a safe haven; leaving the double in could have a significant impact on partnership harmony, especially this early in the evening. 2♥ looks like the safest option. South knows North is unlikely to hold 4 hearts or 4 diamonds. 2♠ is also possible. As South has no aces, 2NT seems a bridge too far.

### What about **the play in 2♥** by South?

At one table, West clicks on the ♦4. So quickly in fact that South knows it's a singleton. West normally agonises over his leads and has not understood the need to play in tempo. Declarer rises with ♦A, recognises that he needs to get rid of trumps and drifts one off.

But at another table, the inexperienced West, who hasn't bid 2♣, after a few seconds thinking, also leads ♦4. Now South has a decision to make. 2♥ shouldn't make, but there is a chance if West (not Tony Forrester\*) has led from Kxx or Kxxx. South plays ♦7. Rats!

Now the young East West partnership have just had a bridge lesson from Oxford's junior coaching gurus, and it is a perfect opportunity for them to activate their newly-acquired suit preference signals (*diagram repeated on next page...*)

	♠ K 10 8 7 2 ♥ A K 10 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ J 2	Contract: 1♥ by S (originally played in 2H)  NS Tricks: 0 EW Tricks: 1																									
♠ J 6 3 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ 4 ♣ A Q 10 8 4 3		♠ A <sub>4</sub> Q <sub>4</sub> 9 <sub>4</sub> ♥ 5 <sub>5</sub> 4 <sub>5</sub> 3 <sub>5</sub> ♦ K J <sub>7</sub> *9 <sub>7</sub> 6 <sub>7</sub> 5 <sub>7</sub> ♣ 7 <sub>7</sub> 6 <sub>7</sub>																									
7      15      10 8	♠ 5 4 ♥ Q J 7 2 ♦ Q 10 3 2 ♣ K 9 5	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♣</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>N</th> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <th>W</th> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♣	NT	N	-	1	2	-	S	-	-	1	-	E	2	-	-	1	W	2	-	-	1
	♠	♥	♣	NT																							
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At trick 2, East returns ♦ 9, suit preference for spades.

West ruffs and returns ♠ 3, suit preference for clubs.

At trick 4, East wins the trick and returns ♦ J, suit preference for another spade.

West ruffs again and returns ♠ 6, reinforcing the suit preference for clubs.

At trick 6, East duly leads a club, and West takes two club tricks for the first seven tricks.

West is about to lead another club for East to ruff, when East tries to win style points by claiming zero more tricks.

This annoys NS, who have a sense of humour failure.

It transpired that East West had missed the recent Oxford junior coaching session on 'How to Avoid Annoying Really Old People'.

*\* It is said that Tony Forrester has never ever underled a King*