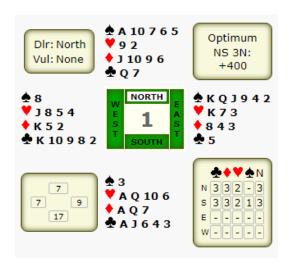
Summertown Bridge Bulletin

Monday 21 December

by James Bentley

Board 1



Bidding will start 2♠-dbl-P-

North has a choice between 3♦ and 2NT.

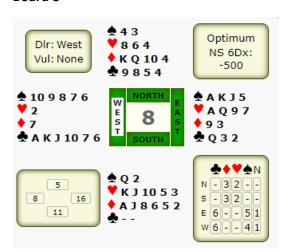
2NT looks a better bet. Should South go on to 3NT at pairs? 17HCP - but where will the entries be to take all the finesses, half of which will fail? Surely 2NT+1 will be a neartop score as few Norths will be bidding 2NT? As Nanny used to say, stay safe in Tier 2.

The play includes a couple of pantomime pratfalls. After winning the second round of spades, declarer must play J ◆ and overtake with Q ◆ to unblock the suit.

Winning any return declarer must then lead low towards Q.

Oh, yes you did!

Board 8



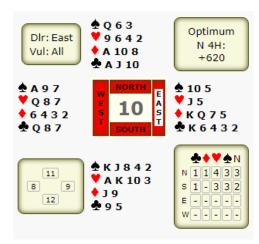
South is in the hot seat on this board.

Will West pass or open 1♣? Opening 3♣ would be like going on an extended walking tour of Dover with a group of young partygoers. After 1♣-P-1♥, will South overcall 2♠? If not, after 1♣-P-1♥-P-1♠-P-2♠ (FSF), will South double?

If West passes and East opens 1♥, what does South do? The easiest decision is when East opens a strong 1NT and South can delve into her toybox of two-suited overcalls.

If South sits on his hands, EW will be the happy campers, though they must avoid infectious laughter.

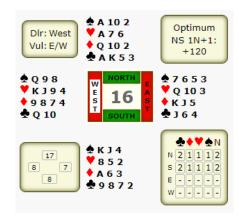
Board 10



North has to respond 2♣ to South's 1♣ opening bid. A bid of 2NT (yes, I know it was OK bidding 2NT while sheltering from the Spanish Flu) will put you on the naughty step till lockdown ends. 2♥ by South raised to 3♥ by North looks enough, unless you can rely on the defence to ignore the science (Oh yes they will!)

The defence must lead a high diamond against a ♥ or ♠ contract – the 4♦ or 6♦, with East playing Q♦ (early to bed with no supper for those leading 2♦ or playing K♦). Only Neil Whiting got to sit on Santa's knee by switching at trick 2.

Board 16



North South pairs, with their 3334 shapes were clearly expecting the Fairy Godmother to deliver the 9th trick in a 3NT contract.

In the play, the defence may go wrong on trick one. Don't they always!

On a high diamond lead East must keep K♦ and J♦ to kill North's Q♦ and 10♦. On a Heart lead West must win the second trick and switch to Diamonds. Knocking out A♥ doesn't work – the defence needs to get a second suit (diamonds) going.

Advance to Go and collect 200mg of vaccine if you did.