

Summertown Bridge Bulletin

Monday 21 December

by James Bentley

Board 1

Dir: North
Vul: None

♠ A 10 7 6 5
♥ 9 2
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ Q 7

Optimum
NS 3N:
+400

♠ 8
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ K 10 9 8 2

NORTH
WEST 1 EAST
SOUTH

♠ K Q J 9 4 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 5

7 7 9 17

♠ 3
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ A Q 7
♣ A J 6 4 3

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

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 near-top 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

Dir: West
Vul: None

♠ 4 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ 9 8 5 4

Optimum
NS 6Dx:
-500

♠ 10 9 8 7 6
♥ 2
♦ 7
♣ A K J 10 7 6

NORTH
WEST 8 EAST
SOUTH

♠ A K J 5
♥ A Q 9 7
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 3 2

5 8 16 11

♠ Q 2
♥ K J 10 5 3
♦ A J 8 6 5 2
♣ - -

♣	♦	♥	♠	N
				- 3 2 - -
N	-	3	2	- -
S	-	3	2	- -
E	6	-	-	5 1
W	6	-	-	4 1

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

Dlr: East
Vul: All

♠ Q 6 3
♥ 9 6 4 2
♦ A 10 8
♣ A J 10

Optimum
N 4H:
+620

♠ A 9 7
♥ Q 8 7
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ Q 8 7

NORTH
WEST SOUTH
10
EAST

♠ 10 5
♥ J 5
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ K 6 4 3 2

♠ K J 8 4 2
♥ A K 10 3
♦ J 9
♣ 9 5

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

11
8 9
12

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

Dlr: West
Vul: E/W

♠ A 10 2
♥ A 7 6
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A K 5 3

Optimum
NS 1N+1:
+120

♠ Q 9 8
♥ K J 9 4
♦ 9 8 7 4
♣ Q 10

NORTH
WEST SOUTH
16
EAST

♠ 7 6 5 3
♥ Q 10 3
♦ K J 5
♣ J 6 4

17
8 7
8

♠ K J 4
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ 9 8 7 2

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

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.