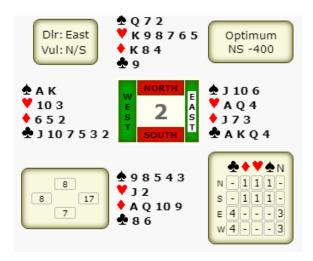
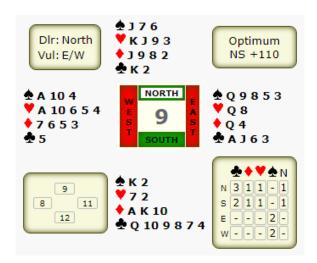
Summertown Bridge Bulletin 23 January 2023



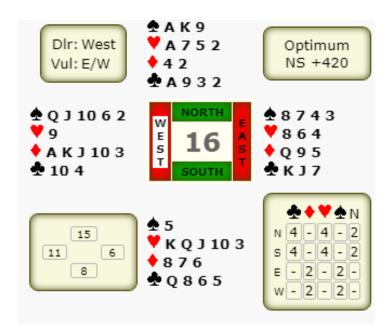
Two salutary lessons here on Board 2. East opens 1♣. What should West respond? Depending on system agreement, West will bid 2♣, 3♣, or 1NT. East will punt 3NT, hoping not to lose the first five diamond tricks. One West bid 3NT, thinking that the partnership might have nine tricks off the top. A bid that might have some traction in a teams match, but this was pairs. 3NT by West attracts the lead of ♥7. Declarer, seeing diamonds wide open, congratulates himself on his stunning 3NT bid, and rises with ♥A for a comfortable 9 tricks. Salutary lesson No. 2. West must recognise that the field will be in 3NT by East, making 10 tricks on a heart lead. He must take the heart finesse and risk his contract. It is pairs after all. Drat.



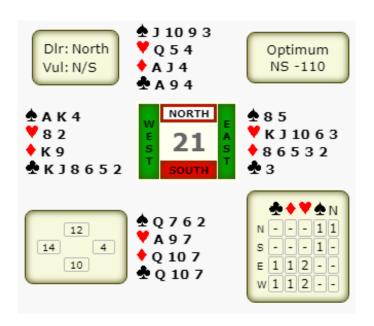
Board 9: to bid or not to bid? That is the question. 'Tis nobler to pass the East hand, but what about South?

Bidding in 3rd seat (after pass-pass-) is fun. You have greater licence. Here, you expect EW to have a major fit. We play weak twos as weak-to-intermediate in 3rd seat. Our three bids are also weak-to-intermediate and may only have six cards.

Can you lose by bidding 3. There can't be a NS game on. How often are you going to be doubled? West leads a diamond and, to put the contract down, East must duck. Tricky.



Board 16 is a good competitive hand. After 1♠ from West, some doubled with the North hand; others bid 1NT. East is surely going to bid 2♠ after a double (and possibly after 1NT). South will bid 4♥. Should West meekly pass? Vulnerable against not? West should assume 4♥ is making. If your opponents never double, 4♠ will win every time. But can you scrape together 9 tricks when doubled? It looks like it. The computer says no, but that requires North to lead diamonds twice then underlead his ♥A for a ruff. In your dreams.



On Board 21, after 1NT-P-P- what do you fancy in the West seat? Playing Landy, you don't have 2 available.

I hate leaving 1NT in, so I fancy 3. South must double and it doesn't work out well for EW. That doesn't mean it was a bad bid.

James Bentley