

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 23 January 2023

Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

♠ Q 7 2  
 ♥ K 9 8 7 6 5  
 ♦ K 8 4  
 ♣ 9

Optimum  
NS -400

♠ A K  
 ♥ 10 3  
 ♦ 6 5 2  
 ♣ J 10 7 5 3 2

NORTH  
 WEST 2 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ J 10 6  
 ♥ A Q 4  
 ♦ J 7 3  
 ♣ A K Q 4

♠ 9 8 5 4 3  
 ♥ J 2  
 ♦ A Q 10 9  
 ♣ 8 6

8  
 8 17  
 7

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

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.

Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

♠ J 7 6  
 ♥ K J 9 3  
 ♦ J 9 8 2  
 ♣ K 2

Optimum  
NS +110

♠ A 10 4  
 ♥ A 10 6 5 4  
 ♦ 7 6 5 3  
 ♣ 5

NORTH  
 WEST 9 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ Q 9 8 5 3  
 ♥ Q 8  
 ♦ Q 4  
 ♣ A J 6 3

♠ K 2  
 ♥ 7 2  
 ♦ A K 10  
 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 4

9  
 8 11  
 12

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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Dir: West  
Vul: E/W

Optimum  
NS +420

♠ A K 9  
♥ A 7 5 2  
♦ 4 2  
♣ A 9 3 2

♠ Q J 10 6 2  
♥ 9  
♦ A K J 10 3  
♣ 10 4

NORTH  
WEST 16 EAST  
SOUTH

♠ 8 7 4 3  
♥ 8 6 4  
♦ Q 9 5  
♣ K J 7

15  
11 6  
8

♠ 5  
♥ K Q J 10 3  
♦ 8 7 6  
♣ Q 8 6 5

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

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.

Dir: North  
Vul: N/S

Optimum  
NS -110

♠ J 10 9 3  
♥ Q 5 4  
♦ A J 4  
♣ A 9 4

♠ A K 4  
♥ 8 2  
♦ K 9  
♣ K J 8 6 5 2

NORTH  
WEST 21 EAST  
SOUTH

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

12  
14 4  
10

♠ Q 7 6 2  
♥ A 9 7  
♦ Q 10 7  
♣ Q 10 7

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

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.