

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 24 January 2022

### Leads against 3NT

Dlr: North Vul: None	♠ J 9 7 6 5 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 8 6 ♣ 10 4 2	Optimum EW 3N: -400																																							
♠ A Q 4 ♥ Q J ♦ A 9 7 5 2 ♣ 9 8 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">WEST</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">NORTH</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">WEST</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">SOUTH</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">EAST</td></tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST		1		WEST	SOUTH	EAST	♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ A K 5 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ K 5 3																														
WEST	NORTH	EAST																																							
	1																																								
WEST	SOUTH	EAST																																							
<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">13</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">7</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		4		13		16		7		♠ 10 ♥ 9 8 7 6 4 3 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A Q J 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">E</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">1</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">1</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">1</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">3</td></tr> </table>							N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	2	2	3	W	1	2	1	2	3
	4																																								
13		16																																							
	7																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																				
S	-	-	-	-	-																																				
E	1	2	2	2	3																																				
W	1	2	1	2	3																																				

At every table, East played in 3NT. When East has opened a strong 1NT, a heart lead is clear. It should be ♥9 (if you play top of rubbish) or ♥8 if playing second top (best). Never 4<sup>th</sup> highest, which implies that you hold at least one honour in the suit. If East opens 1♥, there is still a good case for a passive heart. ♣Q is the textbook lead from South's club holding, but is surely bound to give away the 10<sup>th</sup> trick, leading to a poor score at pairs.

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠ J 7 6 5 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ A K 6	Optimum EW 4H: -420																																							
♠ K 10 8 ♥ A Q J 9 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ J 5 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">WEST</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">NORTH</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">WEST</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">SOUTH</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">EAST</td></tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST		2		WEST	SOUTH	EAST	♠ A 4 2 ♥ K 5 ♦ A K J 9 2 ♣ 9 3 2																														
WEST	NORTH	EAST																																							
	2																																								
WEST	SOUTH	EAST																																							
<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">10</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">11</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		10		11		15		4		♠ Q 9 ♥ 10 7 6 3 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ Q 10 8 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">-</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">E</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">4</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">2</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">3</td></tr> </table>							N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	4	2	3	W	2	4	4	2	3
	10																																								
11		15																																							
	4																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																				
S	-	-	-	-	-																																				
E	2	4	4	2	3																																				
W	2	4	4	2	3																																				

Defending 3NT, most Souths chose the correct lead of ♣7. I wondered why three pairs led ♠Q. Was this a speculative short major? Oh no! The bidding had started 1♦-P-1♥-1♠-. North's spade holding is nothing like good enough for a vulnerable overcall (nor a first round NV) and did, of course, encourage the disastrous ♠Q lead, once again allowing declarer to make overtricks for an excellent pairs score.

Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

♠ K 9 6  
 ♥ 8 6  
 ♦ A 9 8 7 3 2  
 ♣ A 4

Optimum  
 NS 4H:  
 +420

♠ Q 5 3 2  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ K Q 4  
 ♣ J 10 8 7 6

NORTH  
 WEST 11 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ 10 7 4  
 ♥ A K 10 7  
 ♦ J 6  
 ♣ 9 5 3 2

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

11  
 8 8  
 13

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

When an ambitious NS alight in 3NT played by North, how should EW defend? South has bid hearts so a club looks normal, particularly when holding the top hearts. Playing the right card is so important. Most of us play second top of rubbish, so ♣5. West must then encourage with ♣8, so that when East gets in, he will not switch. One pair got it spot on.

Dlr: North  
 Vul: All

♠ Q 7 6 2  
 ♥ A Q 7 6 4  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ 8 5 2

Optimum  
 N 7Hx:  
 -1700

♠ A 4  
 ♥ J 9 3 2  
 ♦ K 8 5 4  
 ♣ K 4 3

NORTH  
 WEST 13 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ K J 8 5  
 ♥ - -  
 ♦ A J 9  
 ♣ A Q 10 9 7 6

♠ 10 9 3  
 ♥ K 10 8 5  
 ♦ Q 7 6 3 2  
 ♣ J

8  
 11 15  
 6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	7	4	-	2	2
W	7	4	-	4	4

I was surprised that only one West bid 1♦ after East opened 1♣. 5-card major partnerships will prefer 1♥ to 1♦, but for the rest of us 1♦ is the recommended bid, 'cheaper of 4s'. When 3NT is played by West, North has an easy ♥6 opening lead. What should South return? Normal is the original 4<sup>th</sup> highest in that suit (or top of two remaining). Here, ♥10 looks right. West covers and North wins the trick with ♥Q. What next? North sits and thinks (Yes, I know, Piglet, sometimes he just sits). It looks like declarer has the rest, so you must cash the ♥A, even though it promotes declarer's ♥9. At the table all three NS pairs who had started with a heart, got it right.

James Bentley