

Summertown Bridge Bulletin 26 September 2022

Hello, this is Steven again. Last night's bridge was thinly attended (three and a half tables) but there were some interesting hands - I've chosen four. Congratulations to Peter & Sandra who won.

First, here is Board 2. Oddly, both sides managed to play in no trumps on this one. At one table North must have opened 1NT after three passes and just made it. As it happens a 1♠ opening might have worked better, as 2♠ is safe, whereas 1NT can go off.

At my table East opened a light 1NT and played in 2NT. This was not a success: Steph found the good lead of a heart, I switched to the jack of spades, and declarer eventually went three off. Finally (each board was only played three times) Peter & Sandra got to a making 3♣ contract. N/S had reached the apparently

safe haven of 2♠, but Sandra, playing West, was unwilling to let the bidding die there and doubled for takeout – a typical pairs manoeuvre at this vulnerability.

Board 2

Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

♠ J 10 9 8 5
♥ A K
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A 10 5

♠ A 4
♥ 8 6 5 3
♦ A 9 8 6
♣ Q J 6

NORTH
2
SOUTH

♠ Q 6
♥ Q 10 4
♦ K J 4 3
♣ K 8 7 3

12
11 11
6

♠ K 7 3 2
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ Q 5
♣ 9 4 2

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

Board 19

Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

♠ 8 3
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A 8 5 2

♠ A Q 10 9 6
♥ 8 5 2
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ 10

NORTH
19
SOUTH

♠ K J 5 4
♥ A Q 9
♦ 3
♣ Q 9 6 4 3

♠ 7 2
♥ K J 10
♦ A K 8 7 2
♣ K J 7

4
9 12
15

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

Boards 19-21 were all interesting (unfortunately this was my sit-out round so I missed them).

I remember once going to a seminar at Summertown given by Ed Scerri (a very good player). He pointed out that you shouldn't be put off overcalling if you have length in opener's suit, as partner may well be short. On Board 19, South would normally open 1♦ (unless playing a strong NT) and West should overcall 1♠. East has enough to look for game, though only Paul & Roger bid it. They were also the only pair to make 10 tricks,

which can be done after a diamond lead. The winning line is to draw trumps, then lead dummy's ♦Q, throwing a heart. The ♦J9 then provide two discards and you only lose one club, cross-ruffing the rest.

Dlr: West
Vul: All

♠ 10 5 4 2
♥ J 6
♦ 10 9 7 5 3
♣ 3 2

♠ Q 9
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ K Q
♣ A Q 6 5

W NORTH E
S 20 A S
T SOUTH T

♠ A J 6
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ A J 2
♣ 10 9 8

1
18 14
7

♠ K 8 7 3
♥ 8 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ K J 7 4

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	4	7	3	7
W	6	3	7	3	6

Board 20 is a simple bidding test: can you get to 6♥? Two pairs did, one didn't. It's much easier if you play the Jacoby 2NT convention after partner opens 1 of a major. Then partner can rebid 3♥, showing maximum points with no singleton or void, and you can start cue-bidding or go straight to Blackwood. You can actually make 13 tricks, even if North leads a spade (your spade loser goes away on a diamond and the clubs are perfectly placed), although again, only Paul & Roger managed this. It's always far easier when you look at the hands afterwards!

Given a clear run, West will open 2♣ and, normally, rebid 2NT. Optimistic Easts will go on to 3NT and pessimists will pass. Here, with clubs providing 4 tricks, you should just about make 3NT (South has to discard too many spades or hearts to defeat you). But some Souths will open 1♥ (I would, anyway): the hand just passes the rule of 19, your long suits aren't bad, and third in hand is no time to be timid even when vulnerable. Now West has to double, North presumably raises to 2♥, East passes, and West really doesn't know what to do – punt 3NT or bid 2NT, or 3♦? It's tricky. On the night E/W played in 2NT, 3NT or 3♦, and rather surprisingly they all made 11 tricks.

Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

♠ 9 7 3 2
♥ 9 6 5 2
♦ J 7 6
♣ A 3

♠ A K 10
♥ A K
♦ K Q 10 8 5
♣ K J 2

W NORTH E
S 21 A S
T SOUTH T

♠ 5 4
♥ 10 8
♦ 9 4 3 2
♣ Q 10 8 7 6

5
23 2
10

♠ Q J 8 6
♥ Q J 7 4 3
♦ A
♣ 9 5 4

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