

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 29 March 2021

by James Bentley

Dir: East
Vul: N/S

♠ 5
♥ Q 5
♦ K 9 4
♣ Q J 7 6 5 4 2

Optimum
EW 2H+1:
-140

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ K J 7 6 3
♦ 6
♣ K 10 9

NORTH
WEST 2 EAST
SOUTH

♠ Q 10 3
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A Q 10 5 3 2
♣ 8

♠ K J 7 6 4
♥ A 9 4
♦ J 8 7
♣ A 3

8
11 8
13

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

You can use Board 2 to justify the superiority of your bidding gadgets.

1. Those of us who escaped the restrictive lockdown of the Benji system some time ago can show that East's 2♦ opener will usually win the contract.

2. Those of us who open 1NT with the South hand will allow West to pick 2♣ Landy (or another bid showing both majors) out of his toy box. North has his own toy ready and bids 2NT, Lebensohl, asking partner to bid 3♣ (to play at the 3 level). East is awake and bids 3♦ (pick a major, partner).

South knows North is weak and keeps quiet, West bidding 3♥.

- Those of you who like to open South with 1♠ will likely get a NV 2♥ overcall. North knows his side have at least half the points, but if he bids 3♣, South will bid a doomed 3NT.
- Alternatively, knowing that Boris has granted us new freedoms, some pairs must have decided to ignore convention(s) and bid gaily on to 2♠, 3♠, 3NT and 5♣. Naughty, naughty. The vulnerable should still take care.

Board 4 is another 'Benji-is-yesterday's system' board.

- After a disciplined pass by West, North bids 2♦. OK, it may be 1 HCP more than what your system card says, but you must get a diamond lead if East is declaring a major suit contract.
- What does South think about partner's 2♦? 2♦ in 1st or 3rd seat may be a frisky bid, but a 2nd seat vulnerable 2♦ should be as dependable as Jonathan Van-Tam. South normally needs 15/16+ HCP to speak but here, opposite a 2nd seat 2♦, should bid 2NT. With 14 HCP opposite a minimum 8 HCP, 3♦ should be fine if North doesn't cooperate.
- North has recently been to the Ogust bidding lesson and knows that you don't play Ogust over 2D-2NT, you play features. Luckily North was listening to teacher and knew that with AQJxxx, the correct bid is 3NT. South may gulp a little on first seeing the combined heart holdings, but fortunately East can never get in to lead them through.

Dir: West
Vul: All

♠ K 5 3
♥ 6
♦ A Q J 9 5 4
♣ 6 5 2

Optimum
S 3N: +600

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ A K 8 3
♦ K 8 3 2
♣ 10

NORTH
WEST 4 EAST
SOUTH

♠ 10 7 4
♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ 10
♣ K J 8 4

10
11 5
14

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

Dir: South
Vul: All

♠ J 8 7 6
♥ 10 7 4
♦ J 5 2
♣ 9 6 3

Optimum
EW 1H+2:
-140

♠ A K
♥ K 3
♦ Q 10 8 7 6 3
♣ J 10 4

NORTH
7
SOUTH

♠ 9 3 2
♥ A Q 9 8 5
♦ 9
♣ Q 8 7 2

2
13 8
17

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ J 6 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A K 5

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

Board 7 is an excellent example of what we might call the iron pyrite(s) rebid:

1. South (playing weak NT) opens 1♠.
2. West's suit quality is not ideal, but he bids 2♦ (having thought about a weak jump overcall of 3♦, then noticed the vulnerability).
3. North's hand is far too flat to contemplate entering the auction, even with four-card support for partner's suit.
4. A 2♥ bid by East is dangerous, though it works here.
5. South is tempted to bid again with his 17 HCP and shiny AKs, but knows how to identify fool's gold when he sees it, and passes 2♦ or 2♥.
6. 2♦/2♥ by East/West coast home to give North/South a much better result than going 2 down vulnerable.

Dir: North
Vul: All

♠ J 8 7 6 2
♥ K 7
♦ K 10 6
♣ 8 5 3

Optimum
N 4Nx,NS
4Sx,NS
5Cx: -500

♠ Q 5 3
♥ A 10 8 5 4
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ J

NORTH
13
SOUTH

♠ K 10
♥ Q J 6 2
♦ A Q J 9 3
♣ K 2

7
7 16
10

♠ A 9 4
♥ 9 3
♦ 2
♣ A Q 10 9 7 6 4

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

It's a challenge to get to 4♥ on Board 13!

1. What should South bid over East's 1♦ (assuming weak NT)? 2♣, 3♣ and 4♣ are all possible, but 2♣ in 3rd seat must be losing bridge. 3♣ is normal, though 4♣ should win the contract on the layout. A perfect bid if your opponents never double you.
2. West can only bid 3♦ over South's 3♣. 3♥ is unsound.
3. East has a dilemma, but surely West must have some high card points? Kx of clubs is nice.
4. 3♥ is a free bid, as surely 4♦ is a safe haven.
5. Now West throws his mask away and bids 4♥.