

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 30 August 2021

Mike's last evening as director produced some interesting hands. Congratulations to Krys and Sandra, whose excellent score was helped by tops against me and Moira.

Today I am concentrating on declarer play in no trumps.

Dlr: West  
 Vul: All

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

Optimum  
NS 3N:  
+600

♠ 9 7 5 3  
 ♥ K 10 6 4 3  
 ♦ A 10 6  
 ♣ 8

W	NORTH	E
E	4	A
S		S
T	SOUTH	T

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

♠ J  
 ♥ A Q 7 5 2  
 ♦ J 8  
 ♣ A J 10 9 7

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

12  
 7      8  
 13

In hand 4, almost everyone was in 3NT by North, making between 7 and 10 tricks. Everyone got a diamond lead. But the choice of which diamond was very varied – no one led the 4, but there were examples of the 2,3,5 and 9 being chosen! It seemed to make no difference to West, who always took the A♦ and, somehow divining that partner had a useful suit, returned the 10♦. Most declarers then correctly played to set up the clubs, their task made easier by East playing the queen on the first round. You knock out the K♣, your last diamond is taken, you cash all the clubs but then what? If you lead a heart you make the contract since East cannot get in. If you try to finesse the spade, you go down.

I'm not sure what I would have done, especially since after leads like 5 or 9 of diamonds you probably don't even know who has the long diamonds.

Hand 6, nearly all were in 1NT by North, making from 7 to 9 tricks, nearly all with a club lead. Again the choice of club varies - the 2, the 7 or the 8 - but in all cases West played the King, giving declarer a great start. Well, you have 7 tricks on top, but this is pairs, where is the best chance of making more? Most people played for a 3-3 break in hearts, ending up with 8 tricks, but surely playing for split honours in diamonds is better. Lead up to dummy losing to the K and subsequently lead up again. They break 3-3 so you end up with 2 diamond tricks, making 9 in all. Worst case there are 4 diamonds to the AK off side (actually unlikely after West, who has already shown K♣, has passed third in hand), but even then you would not risk the contract.

Dlr: East  
 Vul: E/W

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

Optimum  
NS 4H:  
+420

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

W	NORTH	E
E	6	A
S		S
T	SOUTH	T

♠ J 5 3  
 ♥ Q J 10  
 ♦ A 5 3  
 ♣ 8 7 3 2

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

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

14  
 8      8  
 10

A quick mention of Hand 1 where the majority of the Norths were in NT, but making between 6 and 11 tricks! The best lead is Q♥. Assuming North takes the first heart, you can see lots of club tricks - after you have lost A♣ - and probably lots of spade tricks - after losing K♠ - but you need to avoid West getting in first, leading another heart through and subsequently East making all the hearts. Maybe declarer should hold off Q♥ at trick 1; East is bound to carry on with them.

Dlr: North  
Vul: None

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

Optimum  
NS 4S:  
+420

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

WEST NORTH EAST  
SOUTH

♠ K 10  
♥ Q J 9 7 6 2  
♦ 8 4  
♣ A 8 6

15  
6 10  
9

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

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

Dlr: North  
Vul: E/W

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

Optimum  
NS 4S:  
+420

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

WEST NORTH EAST  
SOUTH

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

16  
12 3  
9

♠ 10 7 2  
♥ Q 9 4 2  
♦ A 8 6 4  
♣ K 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	1	5	1	4	3
S	1	5	1	4	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Finally, I suppose I must describe my disaster of the evening, Board 9, 3NT by South, one off, score zero. John Cecil led K♠. It looks as if my 7, 8 and 10 between them are likely to be a stop, so I took the first trick with the A♠. I lost a diamond to East (Tunde) who led back the 9♠ covered with my 10 and John's Queen. He then led a heart taking my Ace. Great, I thought, I can knock out the J♠ and my 8♠ will be a ninth trick. With John on lead my Q♥ is safe. No need to risk the club finesse. So I lead 7♠ – but it is Tunde who has the Jack! A heart comes through and that's me with a bottom. (The only other 3NT bid was played by North and got a club lead – 9 tricks straight away.) There we go.

*Cliff Pavelin*