

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 31 October 2022

Hello, this is Steven again. Last night's bridge was rather thinly attended with just eleven pairs - perhaps everyone was celebrating Halloween. Congratulations to Linda & Dave who won.

Almost everyone at Summertown plays weak two bids in the majors (or a multi 2♦ bid, which is usually the same thing). I'm going to look at three such hands, to see how people coped with it.

Dlr: North  
Vul: None

♠ K 10 9  
♥ K 7 2  
♦ 10 9 8 7  
♣ K 10 9

Optimum  
NS +130

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

W	NORTH	E
E	1	S
S	1	T
T	SOUTH	T

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

9	
13	6
12	

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

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

On Board 1, East had a pretty horrible weak two bid (poor suit, flat distribution), but non-vulnerable everyone opened it. I was the only declarer allowed to play in 2♠, just making. Two other pairs opened 2♠, South doubled or bid hearts, and either way ended up in 3♥, making with an overtrick. The other two pairs opened a multi 2♦, which made it more interesting. One South overcalled 3♣, which made but didn't score well. The other overcalled hearts, but EW (Krys & Sandra) bid on to 3♠, which should go off (if the opponents take their club tricks), but didn't.

Is there a general lesson? Well, weak two bids often pay off, and you have to take risks in bidding over them. Also (personal view), it's sometimes easier to get into the action over a multi than it is over a weak two – here South can overcall 2♥, rather than having to risk 3.

On Board 14, the computer says that NS can make 3 NT or 5♦, although neither is easy to reach or to play. To make it harder, every East opened a weak 2♥. The only NS pair to register a plus score were Trevor & John: Trevor (North) bid 2NT, which I think showed the minors, and they played in 3♦, making a surprising 12 tricks (declarer set up club tricks after West discarded a club early on). Another North doubled – not a success when partner leapt to 4♠. Every other North bid 3♣, which was reluctantly left in and went two or three off. I *think* I would just pass with the North hand, but it's not easy (as it happens, 2♥ will go off against best defence).

Dlr: East  
Vul: None

♠ A 2  
♥ J 2  
♦ K 6 4 2  
♣ A 10 8 6 5

Optimum  
NS +400

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

W	NORTH	E
E	14	S
S	14	T
T	SOUTH	T

♠ K  
♥ K Q 10 7 6 3  
♦ 10 9  
♣ 9 4 3 2

12	
12	8
8	

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

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

Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

Optimum  
 NS -400

♠ A K 9 5 4 3  
 ♥ Q 8 7  
 ♦ 7 4 2  
 ♣ 3

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

NORTH  
 WEST 17 EAST  
 SOUTH

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

9  
 8 9  
 14

♠ Q 10 8 6  
 ♥ J 3 2  
 ♦ K J 6  
 ♣ A K 8

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	2	-
S	-	-	-	2	-
E	5	2	1	-	-
W	5	2	1	-	-

Lastly, on Board 17, the issue is what partner should do after a weak two opening.

Mary-Ann opened 1♠, and then they were bound to get to game. Everyone else opened a weak two or multi. Over a weak two, South usually enquired by bidding 2NT, North showed a maximum hand, and South went on to 4♠. It's actually marginal whether South should look for game, as the hand is so flat. As it was, on best defence (which everyone but me found), the defence take the first five tricks.

Interestingly, EW can make 5♣, but only one West risked entering the bidding and NS still played in 4♠. Unluckily for them, West chose to bid 3♦, and East replied in hearts, making the correct defence much easier to find.

*Steven Bliss, October 2022*