

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 5 April 2021

by Cliff Pavelin

Am I the only person anywhere who prefers BBO to RealBridge, where you see and talk to the others at the table? With the latter you have all the extraneous activity from peoples' houses – dogs barking, spouses wandering into view, distant flushing. And why does everyone look so old on the small screen? Also, I don't want to see my partner's expression when I've made some small mistake, possibly due to that extra glass of wine (hang on, you are thinking, you don't have the extra glass when you are on Realbridge, since everyone can see you; OK, I give you that!)

So, a silent but quite exciting evening at Summertown, despite the preponderance of part-scores; games were generally bid and made in less than a third of the deals.

Dlr: South Vul: E/W	♠ 10 4 2 ♥ J 9 8 4 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ 8 7 3	Optimum EW 1N: -90
♠ Q 6 3 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ J 6 5 4	W NORTH E S 3 A T SOUTH T	♠ K J 9 7 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ 9 8 7 4 ♣ A Q
5 8 14 13	♠ A 8 5 ♥ K 7 ♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ K 10 9 2	♣♦♥♠N N 1 - 1 - - S 1 - 1 - - E - 1 - 1 1 W - 1 - - 1

To start, here's Hand 3. Most played in 2♥ with this miserable collection, and most made it, although they shouldn't. Typically West led a club to partner's Ace and declarer takes the next trick with ♣K. South now leads the ♦Q. Should West cover with three to the King under a doubleton Ace? Of course not, declarer surely has the Jack. And yet everyone did. Including me.

Now for Hand 8. Look at West's hand – dealer, with a rather good 19 points. People either opened 1♣, or 2♦, the latter maybe Benji or multi, intending subsequently to show a 19-20 NT. Most ended up in 2NT, two or three off. But in a couple of cases N-S managed to get to a heart contract, once 3♥ and once 4♥. Which of course West, not entirely confident about what her side can make, gratefully doubles. Well, wouldn't you? And how miserable South must feel when dummy goes down. But surprise, everything works and the defence can take only three tricks.

Dlr: West Vul: None	♠ A Q 6 5 4 ♥ Q 9 8 6 5 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 10	Optimum NS 4H: +420
♠ K J 10 ♥ A K ♦ J 8 4 ♣ A Q J 6 5	W NORTH E S 8 A T SOUTH T	♠ 9 7 3 ♥ J 10 ♦ K 10 7 5 ♣ 9 7 3 2
8 19 4 9	♠ 8 2 ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♦ A Q 9 6 ♣ K 8 4	♣♦♥♠N N - - 4 3 - S - - 4 3 1 E - - - - - W - - - - -

On Hand 11, West typically opens 2♥, but North ends up in spades, either 2♠ or 3♠. So the defence starts with ♥K and ♥10, West takes the Ace and returns ♥J. I was vaguely watching my partner play this and as he ruffed with the ♠9, I thought “it’s bound to be over-ruffed, I’d be tempted to throw the losing diamond”. Well, maybe I would have been tempted, but as those that did that found out, they then make only 9 tricks – they still have to lose a spade. When declarer ruffs, East overruffs with what is in any case a natural trump trick, so 10 tricks are made.

Dlr: South
Vul: None

♠ A K Q 9 5 2
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 4
♣ K 7 4

Optimum
EW
5Hx,EW
5Dx:
+300

♠ 4 3
♥ A J 8 5 3 2
♦ K J 8 6
♣ 8

W	NORTH	E
E	11	S
S	SOUTH	T

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ K 10
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ J 9 3

	14	
9		7
	10	

♠ 8
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ A Q 10 6 5 2

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

And finally, by Hand 16, perhaps people had given up trying to bid games. As you can see, E-W can make 6♣ or 6♦ without much problem, but just two pairs bid 5♦ and no one else was in game.

Dlr: West
Vul: E/W

♠ 7 4 2
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ Q
♣ A Q J 10 7

Optimum
NS 7Cx:
-800

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

W	NORTH	E
E	16	S
S	SOUTH	T

♠ A K 10 9 6
♥ K
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ 9 3 2

	15	
6		14
	5	

♠ 5 3
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ J 6
♣ K 8 6 5 4

♣♦♥♠N				
N	3	-	1	-
S	3	-	1	-
E	-	6	-	6
W	-	6	-	6