

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin 5 September 2022

Dlr: West  
 Vul: All

Optimum  
 NS +630

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

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

NORTH  
 WEST 4 EAST  
 SOUTH

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

12  
 11 6  
 11

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

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

I was surprised at some of the bidding on this board. What should West do. Pass? 1♦? 2♦?

I like 1♦. North will bid 1♥ and East will bid a competitive 1♠.

Andrew Robson's favourite convention is the Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB). South's 2♦, a cue bid of opener's suit, shows three-card support for hearts and 10+ HCP. 2♥ would show three-card support and around 3-9 HCP.

3♦ would show four-card support for hearts and 6-9+ HCP. 3♥ would show four-card support and around 2-5 HCP.

After the UCB, North/South have a reasonable chance of bidding game, either 4♥ or 3NT.

NORTH  
 WEST 10 EAST  
 SOUTH

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

I opened 2♣, our strongest bid, South overcalled 2♠ and Valerie doubled, showing 4 hearts and around 8 HCP. North passed. Now what? Surely West must have a top club honour?

6♦ seemed a reasonable punt. It was not a great success. Mind you, the pedestrian 5♦ may have garnered a good result in the arcane Middle Earth of Match point Pairs, but won zero style points. And 6♦ making would have made writing this bulletin more fun.

Dlr: West  
 Vul: N/S

♠ Q 5 4 2  
 ♥ K J 7 5 3  
 ♦ - -  
 ♣ A 10 6 3

Optimum  
NS +300

♠ A 7  
 ♥ A 10 9 8 6  
 ♦ A 4 3  
 ♣ 9 4 2

NORTH  
 WEST 12 EAST  
 SOUTH

♠ J 10 3  
 ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 5 2  
 ♣ 8

♠ K 9 8 6  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ K Q 6  
 ♣ K Q J 7 5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	5	-	2	3	3
S	5	-	2	3	4
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	3	-	-	-

10  
 12      2  
 16

Playing weak NT, West should open 1NT. The five-card major is too weak for 1♥.

One table matched the computer's so-called 'Expert View' bidding sequence. Not an expert I would want to play with...

1NT (weak)-2♣ (majors)-2♦-2♠-3♦-3♠-4♦-4♠-P-P-5♦-dbl-

South's three bites of the cherry says 'double me, please' and East's three-bites says 'No, double me instead!'

Our table's auction saved a lot of time:

1NT (weak)-2♣ (majors)-2♦-4♠-P-P-5♦-dbl-

4♠ is a good call by South with this 5/6-loser hand. The minimum strength for the Landy 2♣ overcall of 1NT used to be an opening hand, but 8-15 HCP non-vulnerable and 10-15 HCP vulnerable is about right now. 7 losers is another rule-of-thumb. Defending 1NT is often losing bridge.

If West opens 1♥, East will be on lead against a spade contract. A lead of a heart instead of the singleton club will not work out well. QED.

*James Bentley*