

## Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

I am looking at three hands today. I hope I don't seem too critical – I wonder if everyone was wondering what would happen to Boris and giving only half their attention to the game.

I don't normally talk about bidding since my own bidding is so rooted in antiquity, but hand 2 is worth looking at. 4♥ and 4♠ are both excellent contracts, but only three of the seven pairs were in game. At five tables, East opened 1♦ but in only one of these did South double, they got to 4♠ in short order. South overcalled 2♥ in one case, presumably a strong bid, and they got to game. But in four cases South bid simply 1♥, surely too weak on a five loser hand. Maybe they were afraid of partner leaping in clubs after a double, but if you have no artificial way of showing this great strength in the majors and you play weak jump overcalls, surely a double is the least bad option.

Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

♠ K 9 5 3  
♥ 4 3  
♦ K 7 2  
♣ J 5 3 2

Optimum  
NS 4S+1:  
+650

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

W	NORTH	E
S	2	A
T	SOUTH	T

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

7	
5	11
17	

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

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	4	5	2
S	-	-	4	5	2
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

♠ 10  
♥ 8 6 5 2  
♦ K 9 6 4  
♣ A J 10 5

Optimum  
N 2H+1:  
+140

♠ Q 9 7 3 2  
♥ Q 10 3  
♦ Q 5 2  
♣ 4 3

W	NORTH	E
S	3	A
T	SOUTH	T

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

8	
6	12
14	

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

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

Playing in 1NT by South, Hand 3 is the sort of hand when some partners (not in SBC of course), when you go one off, look at the diagram and say 'it says you should make it'. No it doesn't, it says you can make it, maybe only if you have second sight.

The two pairs that went down in 1NT, both had a lead of ♠3. East took the Ace, led back a spade, South correctly plays the 8, West takes the 9, but now has to switch – in both cases West then led ♣4. Dummy plays 10, covered with the Queen and South wins with the

King. OK, it's now tempting to see if the clubs break, by playing the Ace and 10. But this is wrong. They either break or they don't - there is no hurry to find out. Keep the two club entries in dummy while you try and set up tricks elsewhere. Lead a small spade, or duck a heart, or run the ♦10 – anything is better than setting up a club trick for the opposition.

Dir: West  
 Vul: None

♠ 9 6 4

♥ 9 8

♦ A K 7 4

♣ Q 9 7 3

Optimum  
 EW  
 4S,EW  
 4H: -420

♠ K 10

♥ K Q 6 5

♦ 8 6 2

♣ A K 10 8

W NORTH E  
 E SOUTH  
 S 8 A  
 T T

♠ A J 8 5 2

♥ A 10 4 3

♦ 10 9 5

♣ 2

9		
15		9
7		

♠ Q 7 3

♥ J 7 2

♦ Q J 3

♣ J 6 5 4

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

On hand 8, all but one pair were in the correct contract of 4♥ and all made 10 tricks. OK, the one pair was us; we were in a dreadful 3NT which, although it made, got a well-deserved bottom.

On five of the six 4♥ tables, the defenders began by cashing three diamonds (if not, declarer can throw a losing diamond on a club and there are no more problems). In one of these cases, South then led a spade, giving declarer a free finesse to set up the spades.

It is more interesting to look at the other four cases when the defenders, having cashed three tricks, continued with a neutral lead of a club or heart. What is the best way of making all the rest? Only one declarer did (what I think is) the right thing – play ♣A, ruff a club, back to a heart, ruff another club and then draw trumps and claim. Assuming the trumps behave, this works unless the clubs are 6-2 and South can over-ruff the third club. A second table had a similar approach, but declarer played Ace and King of clubs first – this would have gone wrong if the clubs were 5-3 with South over-ruffing the 4<sup>th</sup> club. The third table finessed the ♠10 – lucky! And at the other one, declarer drew trumps and then played ♠K, ♠A and ruffed a spade, setting up the rest. This works if the spades are 3-3 or the Queen drops – probably a similar chance to taking the finesse.

So everyone made it, but did they all deserve to?

*Cliff Pavelin*