

## Revised MENTOR-MENTEE HAND ANALYSIS

September 24, 2024

**Board 1:** North deals and passes with ten points. East only has 11 high card points, but with a five-card spade suit headed by two honors, a nice club holding and a singleton heart, a one spade opening bid makes sense. With 11 points South may want to bid, but they don't have the proper shape for a Double. West has seven hearts and eight points. If South passes, **West can bid 1 NT** (either forcing or semi-forcing) intending to bid Hearts at the next turn.

North won't bid with that holding and whether playing Forcing or Semi-Forcing 1 NT East should bid 2 Clubs. South passes again and West can now bid the seven-card heart suit. **Two Hearts should end the bidding.**

Based on double-dummy, a par score is 120 N-S (making 2 NT). On the 24<sup>th</sup>, everyone went down. Scores were 3 NT in the West, down 3 (150 for N-S); 2 NT West down 2 (100 for N-S); 4H W, down 2 (100 N-S); 3H W down 1 (50 NS); and 4D S down 2 (100 E-W). Here's the full deal:

|                     |          |         |
|---------------------|----------|---------|
| N Deals             | ♠ KQ86   |         |
| None Vul            | ♥ 3      |         |
|                     | ♦ KQ8    | 1       |
|                     | ♣ 97543  |         |
| ♠ 95                |          | ♠ AJ732 |
| ♥ KJ98765           |          | ♥ 4     |
| ♦ A4                |          | ♦ 762   |
| ♣ 86                |          | ♣ KQJ2  |
|                     | ♠ 104    |         |
| 10                  | ♥ AQ102  |         |
| 8 11                | ♦ J10953 |         |
| 11                  | ♣ A10    |         |
| NS 2N; NS 3♦; N 2♣; |          |         |
| EW 1♠; EW 1♥; S 1♣; |          |         |
| Par +120: NS 2N=    |          |         |

**Board 5:** North deals and has 17 high card points, no five card suit, so the clear choice is to open 1 NT. East, with one point, passes. South has a four-card major—should they bid Stayman? With only 6 points and a balanced hand, they should not. (Garbage Stayman does not apply here with only two diamonds. Trade the clubs for the diamonds, and Garbage Stayman might make sense.) Assuming South passes, what does West do with 17 points?

In Cappelletti doubling 1 NT shows an equal or stronger hand than opener and it is for penalty. Does West want to do this? They know that most of remaining points are behind them in North's hand and partner could have nothing (as is the case here). And doubling tells North where all the points are, making finesses easy to guess. In this case, **I think passing is the best option.**

However, how might the bidding go if West does double? North should pass. They have described their hand to their partner perfectly and they are in a good position to play 1 NT

doubled. And once North passes, East **has to bid**. They offer no help to West on defense of 1 NT. They have to make the cheapest bid available (with only 2 Clubs, I would bid 2 Diamonds). And whether or not East passes, South should pass as well. They have plenty of help for North in one NT but as their side has at most 23 high card points they don't have values for game. And if East has bid, opponents are going down a bidding rabbit hole.

Double-dummy suggests N-S can make 3 NT, but I don't think there's a reasonable way to find that contract. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the best N-S score was 180 (1 NT doubled and making) and the best E-W score was 200 (3 NT doubled, down one). One other N-S pair played in NT, (bid one, made two). It's unclear how the other pairs arrived at their contracts (2 Clubs North making 3, 2 Hearts North making, and 2 Hearts West down 1). Here's the deal:

N Deals  
N-S Vul

5

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>♠ AQ6</p> <p>♥ J653</p> <p>♦ Q94</p> <p>♣ AK3</p> | <p>♠ K105</p> <p>♥ AQ</p> <p>♦ AJ63</p> <p>♣ QJ72</p> | <p>♠ J874</p> <p>♥ 984</p> <p>♦ 8752</p> <p>♣ 95</p> |
|--|---|--|

  

|                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>17</p> <p>16 1</p> <p>6</p> | <p>♠ 932</p> <p>♥ K1072</p> <p>♦ K10</p> <p>♣ 10864</p> |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|

NS 3N; NS 4♣; NS 2♥;  
 NS 2♦; NS 1♠;  
 Par +600: NS 3N=

**Board 10:** This is a nice contrast to Board 5: East deals and passes with 9 points. South, with 17 a balanced hand and no five-card major bids 1 NT. (Don't worry about that small doubleton diamond. With values in all the other suits, 1NT is the perfect bid.) Now West, with 14 points and a nice five-card diamond suit, is in a much better position than they were on board five

because **they are behind** the no-trump opener. If they are playing Cappelletti, DONT or Meckwell, they can pass and play defense. Or, if they are playing natural bids over NT, they can simply bid 2 Diamonds. In four cases on the 24<sup>th</sup>, that ended the auction, with West bidding and making 2 Diamonds three times for plus 90 and going down one once for minus 100. East should ignore the temptation to either bid Spades or NT because that puts **the strong hand behind declarer** again. And South should swallow their pride and pass. (The par score for E-W is 1 NT making 2, but that's highly unlikely to be a result, since South opens 1 NT.) Here's the hand:

|                    |         |        |
|--------------------|---------|--------|
| E Deals            | ♠ 8762  |        |
| Both Vul           | ♥ 753   |        |
|                    | ♦ 10965 | 10     |
|                    | ♣ J2    |        |
| ♠ J4               |         | ♠ K105 |
| ♥ KJ6              |         | ♥ 942  |
| ♦ AKJ73            |         | ♦ Q4   |
| ♣ 1097             |         | ♣ A865 |
|                    | ♠ AQ9   |        |
|                    | ♥ AQ108 |        |
|                    | ♦ 82    |        |
|                    | ♣ KQ43  |        |
| 1                  |         |        |
| 13 9               |         |        |
| 17                 |         |        |
| EW 2N; E 2♦; W 1♦; |         |        |
| EW 1♣;             |         |        |
| Par -120: EW 1N+1  |         |        |