

Acol Bridge Club – Monday 14th January 2019

<p> ♠ AQJ76 ♥ 83 ♦ K4 ♣ 9872 ♠ 8542 ♠ 103 ♥ AKQ104 ♥ 752 ♦ 8 ♦ QJ7653 ♣ Q64 ♣ J10 ♠ K9 ♥ J96 ♦ A1092 ♣ AK53 </p>	<p><u>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</u></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Not an easy hand to bid – but at least you should avoid a 3NT contract because neither North nor South hold a Heart stopper.</p> <p>Declarer has 9 top tricks and can establish a 10th trick in Clubs by playing Ace, King and conceding the third round of Clubs.</p> <p>However if declarer draws trumps first then he will go down – because West will have a few winning Hearts to cash when she gets in the ♣Q.</p> <p>The winning play is to play 3 rounds of Clubs first. Now declarer has a trump policeman in dummy to deal with any further Heart leads from the defenders and declarer can cash 10 winners now.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥	Dbl	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
			1♣																		
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥																		
Dbl	3♠	Pass	4♠																		
All Pass																					

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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J10875 ♥ 3 ♦ KJ10 ♣ Q1092</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ K93 ♥ AKJ1082 ♥ Q5 ♦ A752 ♦ 8643 ♣ A7 ♣ K854</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ64 ♥ 9764 ♦ Q9 ♣ J63</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Declarer has 9 top tricks and his 10th can only come from Diamonds. So declarer hopes the Diamonds break 3-2 in the opponents hands in which case dummy's ♦8 will be declarer's 10th trick.</p> <p>As usual things aren't as easy as they look at first sight. If Declarer can visualise the play in advance he might see that he will go down if he draws trumps and they turn out to be 4-1 because repeated Spade leads by the defence will cause him to lose control of the hand.</p> <p>The solution is to ruff the Spade continuation at trick two and immediate start about setting up the Diamond trick by playing Ace and another Diamond. Then declarer wins the return and concedes another Diamond and now his last Diamond is established and can be cashed in peace after drawing trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass														
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass														
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass														

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<p> ♠ AKQ ♥ AQ4 ♦ KQ103 ♣ Q76 ♠ 73 ♠ 109862 ♥ 10986 ♥ 753 ♦ J876 ♦ 4 ♣ 1083 ♣ 9542 ♠ J54 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A952 ♣ AKJ </p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>With 39 HCP – 7NT must be easy to bid.</p> <p>Declarer can see 39 out of 40 HCP and it would be a shame if that one point could win a trick and defeat your 7NT contract.</p> <p>So declarer just has to make sure he wins four Diamond tricks. He is only concerned about 4-1 and 5-0 breaks. If the suit is 5-0 he will know who has the missing ♦J on the first round of the suit so even the 5-0 breaks are easy to handle. Declarer needs to do some investigating to see if he can find out who could or better still could not have 4 Diamonds.</p> <p>If declarer cashes his other winners first he will learn that East has 5 Spades and at least 3 Hearts and at least 3 Clubs – so East can't have 4 Diamonds. So if anyone has 4 Diamonds it will be West so declarer cashes the King of Diamonds and plays a small Diamond to his Ace on the second round and all will be revealed.</p>	West	North	East	South		2NT	Pass	7NT
West	North	East	South						
	2NT	Pass	7NT						

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<p> ♠ KJ72 ♥ Q52 ♦ AJ5 ♣ 853 ♠ 853 ♠ 6 ♥ AK10873 ♥ 96 ♦ 9 ♦ Q86432 ♣ A109 ♣ 7642 ♠ AQ1094 ♥ J4 ♦ K107 ♣ KQJ </p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Declarer has 9 tricks i.e. 5 Spades, 2 Clubs and 2 Diamonds. His ♥Q is a possible winner but if the defence are on the ball they will have played 3 rounds of Hearts to begin with and now dummy's ♥Q will have been ruffed.</p> <p>So declarer is forced to find the ♦Q for his 10th trick.</p> <p>So he does a little detective work by drawing trumps and then knocking out the ♣A and cashing 2 more winning Clubs.</p> <p>At that point he will have learned that West has 3 Spades, 6 Hearts and 3 Clubs which means West has at most 1 Diamond. Now it is 100% for declarer to make 3 Diamond tricks and his contract.</p> <p>He cashes dummy's ♦A and then runs the ♦J from dummy and plays low from hand if East does not cover.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
		Pass	1♠														
2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	

Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 9th January 2019

<p> ♠ 8742 ♥ 972 ♦ AQ4 ♣ K85 ♠ K1063 ♠ AJ9 ♥ A65 ♥ 3 ♦ J8 ♦ 1097652 ♣ QJ109 ♣ 642 ♠ Q5 ♥ KQJ1084 ♦ K3 ♣ A73 </p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South is declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♣Q.</p> <p>Declarer has 10 top tricks (5 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 2 Clubs) so it just a matter of making sure he can cash these top 10 tricks in peace. So just draw three rounds of trumps first and then all is easy.</p> <p>We can understand why declarer might try to cash 3 Diamonds first because the odds are very high that he will not be ruffed and in that case he can discard a black suit loser and end up with 11 tricks.</p> <p>However in a team game, we would not risk our contract.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
			1♥														
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

♠ K65
 ♥ 7432
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ AKQJ
 ♠ J108 ♠ A9
 ♥ AKQ ♥ J1098
 ♦ 8743 ♦ 10652
 ♣ 952 ♣ 643
 ♠ Q7432
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ 1087

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

South is declarer in 4♠ and West leads ♥AKQ.

Declarer has lost 2 Heart tricks and must also lose a trick to the Ace of Trumps – which means he can't afford to lose a second trump trick.

The way to keep your trump losers to just one is to hope that one opponent has the doubleton of Ace of trumps and then lead through that opponent on the first round and then play a small trump from both hands on the second round.

So who has the ♠A? It must be East because West was dealer and couldn't open the bidding and has just shown us the ♥AKQ. So get to dummy with a Club and lead a small Spade from dummy to your Queen. Then play a small Spade from both hands and watch East's ♠A fall on thin air.

♠ AQJ1072
 ♥ A75
 ♦ 103
 ♣ Q7
 ♠ 4
 ♥ KQ83
 ♦ QJ98
 ♣ 10954
 ♠ 853
 ♥ J102
 ♦ 72
 ♣ AK863
 ♠ K96
 ♥ 964
 ♦ AK654
 ♣ J2

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

North is declarer in 4♠ and East leads the ♣AK and then (hopefully) switches to anything.

Declarer has 9 top tricks – 6 Spades, 1 Heart and 2 Diamonds. His only chance of a 10th trick is to hope the Diamonds break 3-3 or 4-2 because then dummy's last remaining small Diamond will be a winner.

Declarer needs entries to dummy to all this setting up so he combines this setting up with his trump drawing process. Declarer wins the Heart switch and can afford to cash one top trump from hand. Then he starts on Diamonds by playing ♦AK and ruffing the third round of Diamonds in his hand with a big trump (just in case he gets over-ruffed). Then he enters dummy with the ♠9 and ruffs the fourth round of Diamonds (again with a high trump). Now the stage is set to draw the third round of trumps by playing a trump to dummy's King and then cashing his hard earned 10th trick with the ♦6.