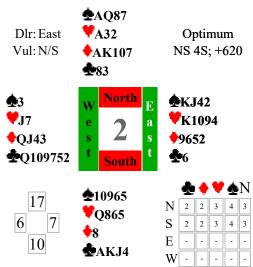


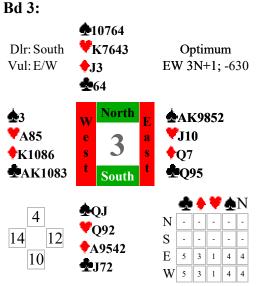
Analysis of Hands 29th Mar 2021

S will usually open 1C (15)– P (W) – 1D(N showing 4 but it has no other bid available if playing a short club. It is an inventive bid because N is stuck) – 1NT(S). N/S will almost certainly make 1NT even after a H lead.(It can be beaten). Some Wests overcalled 1H . I would be hesitant because it is a poor suit and I am opposite a passed partner. I know you make 8 tricks in hearts but if you give South the HJ you are not in a good place. If West does overcall 1H East will raise to 2H. Now South can double for takeout and North will bid 3C. Note: Some Norths bid 1NT after West overcalled 1H. This is so wrong for two reasons. (i) It doesn't have a H stop and (ii) Should show 8/10 maybe sometimes stretch with a good 7 after an overcall.

Bd 2:

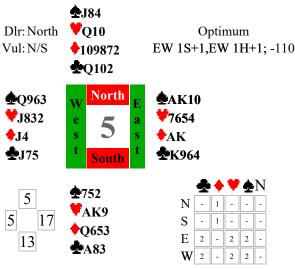


I would not open the South hand. 1D(N) - 1H(S) - 1NT(N) (= 15/17) - 2S (S) (showing exactly 4 hearts and 4 spades and at least a raise to 2NT - 4S(N) (Showing maximum of good 16 or 17. He would bid 3S with 15). Now I know most went off in 4S because of the bad breaks but those who stopped in 2S and got good scores should be asking themselves questions. You can make 10 tricks but must not let West get a H ruff with his small trump. Take one finesse and then go about ruffing your two diamonds in South hand. In other words you need to set up the North hand.



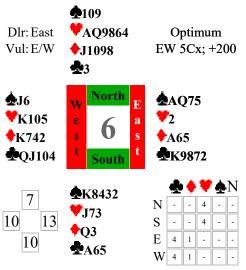
1C(W) - 1S(E) - 2C(W) (cannot bid 2D because it is a reverse bid showing 16+) - 3S(E) (showing 6. Some would play this as non forcing but most would take it as forcing) – 3NT(W). Now there it should be played as the spade spot cards are not good enough to remove it to 4S. North will lead a H and West should not take his HA until the third round. This means he can later knock out the DA from the South hand and South will no longer have a heart to lead back to North to enjoy his 2 heart winners. Normally if you hit the first round of hearts you will go off one. However this time South has the H9 and needs to throw it under the 10 and you would now win with the 8. Now that is a once off situation but 99 times out of a hundred you would go off.

Bd 5:



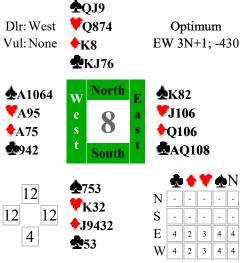
What happened on board 5 is a mystery to me. If you play a strong NT then East will play it in 1NT and that was what happened at the majority of tables. However if you are playing 5 card Majors and a weak NT you will be opening 1C. South has 13hcp **and a totally unsuitable hand to make a takeout double.** Look it has 3S, 3H,4D,3C. Only one suit to play in and that's Diamonds. West with its poor 5hcp and 4/4 in the Majors will more likely pass. If it bids it would be 1H and East would jump to 3H which will go 1 off. Some played in 1H? How ???? Possibly if N bid 1D after South doubled then East might venture in 1NT but is better off to double 1D to show a good opening of 1C and now E/W can play in 1 or 2H.

Bd 6:



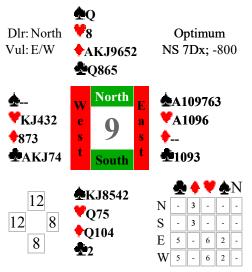
This hand is awkward. 1C(E) - 1S(S) (Not a great suit) – W(Dbl should show 4 hearts but you are stuck – 2H (N)((I would not hide this 6 card suit) – P(E) (showing minimum) – 3H(S) - 4C(W) - P - P - P. In theory you can make 4H but that is only if you play West for K10x of hearts.





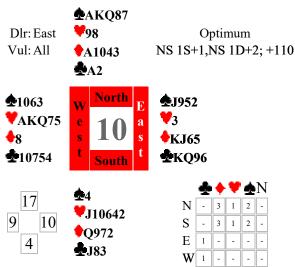
West might open a weak NT but it couldn't be worse. Only thing is, it is non vulnerable. East will raise to 3NT. North will lead a H so you get two heart tricks 2 spade tricks, a D trick and 4 Club tricks. You could make another S trick or another D trick but truthfully I would play on clubs first leading the 9. As North holds both the K and the J you luckily bring in 4 tricks. If West does not open 1NT then N will open 1NT and there he will play going at least 3 off even after a club lead giving him a trick.

Bd 9:

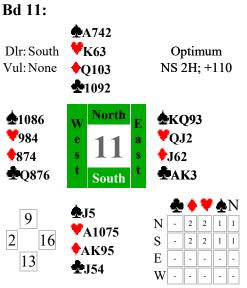


N(1D) - 1S(E) (I wouldn't bid 2S weak as I also hold 4 hearts in case we have a H fit.). – South (Pass waiting for partner to reopen with a double or simply bid 2D feeling partner must hold at least 5 given South's own distribution) – W (2H which is forcing) – N (3D) – E (4H) – S (5D) – W (5H) (West knows partner has no Diamonds as he holds three. N has 6 or 7 and South has three so it leaves very few for East). 5H will make as long as you ruff two diamonds and throw one on SA. You will make 6 if you finesse the HJ but one thing to be careful about is that you do not let N get a ruff with that H8. Draw one round of trumps.

Bd 10:



1S(N) - P - P - 2H(W) (Maybe) - N(Dbl takeout, showing extras and short in hearts -P(E) - P(S) - P. Now this goes 2 off as long as N takes his 3 spades and two aces and then switches to the H9.

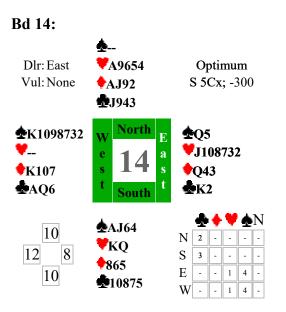


If South opened 1NT (12/14) then East will double showing 16+. West does best to pass and let NS make their 180. If West removes to 2C then N/S should double it. That is N with his 9 hcp knowing they have the balance of the points. The double is important in match point pairs. You are less inclined to double 2H/S in a team's match in case it makes, unless it is a standout double situation.





If E opens 1D - S(1H) - W(Dbl showing 4 spades) - 1S(N) - PASS (E saying he is minimum) - 2C(S) - P(W) - 2H(N) - P - P - P. That should finish the auction. If 1NT is opened by E, South can bid 2H and there it should be played.

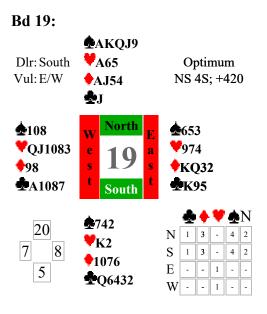


1S(W) - P - 1NT(E) - 2S (W) (The texture of the S suit is not really good enough to jump to 3S though it is close. You will make 10 tricks because you can discard a D from dummy on the third club and later ruff a losing D with a S in dummy. You lose two spade tricks and one D.

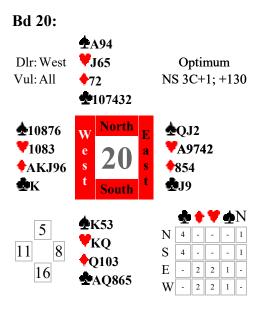
Bd 17:



1NT (N) - Dbl(E) - P (S) - P(W) (Remember partner has 16+ so we have the balance of the points). There it should be played. North will probably scramble 4 or 5 tricks after a S lead. If N/S are playing a strong NT then E/W might get to a 3NT contract which actually makes.



1S(N) - S(2S) (Its worth it holding a control (One King) and a doubleton H. Playing 4S do not draw trumps until you have ruffed a H in dummy. Later on you can set up a D trick by leading one towards the 10. Almost certainly most people got a D lead from the KQ32.

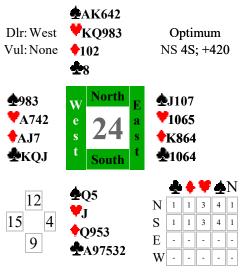


Illustrates the biggest error made by Irish bridge players and it came up previously on Board 13. If West opens 1D East will respond 1H and South should bid 2C. Now West **should pass to show long diamonds and weakness.** He has 11. I see a number of E/W went down -200 in 3D. Why were they up there? They don't have points and they have an 8 card fit. The law of total tricks says you should be no higher than the 2 level and if E/W bid 2D it should be East. N/S can make 4 clubs provided they set up a H trick and cash the club A. Why did so few N/S pairs not bid to 3C?

Bd 21:		
Dlr: North Vul: N/S	∲K7 ♥QJ10865 ♦A ∲AJ94	Optimum NS 4N+1; +660
 ★109643 ♥3 ♥72 ₱K10873 	W North E s 21 a t South t	▲A852 ♥72 ◆J108543 ▲ Q
	фој	♣ ♦ ♥ ≜ N
15 3 7 15	₩ Q0 ₩ AK94	N 3 1 5 - 5
	• AK) •	S 3 1 5 - 5
	• KQ90	E 1 -
	T 032	W 1 -

See quite a few bid the hopeless 6H. The reason it is hopeless is because you are missing a Keycard and hold 3 small clubs in the South hand which surely must lose a trick. The KQxx of D are in the wrong suit. They are needed in clubs. If you had those then 6H would be stone cold.

Bd 24:



1C(W) - 1S(N) - P(S) - Dbl(W) - 2H(N) - 2S(S) - P - P - P. You make 10 tricks because the spades are 3/3 and the H10 drops. Note North overcalls 1S first not 1H. This is always the case when you have two 5 card suits. Open the higher ranking one first