

MID - JANUARY BULLETIN

Editor: David Gold

News:

Bridge4money.com has been running since November the 25th. We now have around 700 registered members from 55 different countries.

The free competition commenced on January the 1st and many people have been taking part. This means that between 11am GMT and 2am GMT there are now plenty of games. At other times the club is quieter but there are still games taking place.

The leading 10 scores in the competition at the time of writing are:

(It's not too late to join!)

1 st	\$772.20
2 nd	\$703.14
3 rd	\$687.44
4 th	\$679.8
5 th	\$659.2
6 th	\$654.0
7 th	\$635.0
8 th	\$634.05
9 th	\$625.23
10 th	\$616.62

So far 18 people have played over 500 hands and 2 people have played over 1000 hands. 95 people have played 100 boards or more.

Bridge4money.com is regularly being improved and new members are joining every day. As time goes on we expect to have games running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Arbitrations:

With the competition in full swing, crashed hands are being arbitrated. There are roughly 15 arbitrations every day at the moment and they are all being arbitrated by David Gold (bridge manager). We promise to arbitrate hands within 48 hours but they are usually arbitrated much more quickly.

The arbitrations are decided by trying to predict what would reasonably have happened. Where there is some doubt the non-crashing side will get the benefit. Players should note that this does not mean that the non-crashing side automatically gets a perfect result. On some hands there will be split rulings.

Note: If you crash you are fined 1 stake unit (i.e. \$1 each time in the competition). This is partly as an administrative fee but also partly to discourage deliberate crashing. If you do genuinely crash you can email support@bridge4money.com to appeal against the fee. We will consider the circumstances and may give you your fee back. We will not consider appeals where you have crashed due to running out of time or have left the room deliberately.

Occasionally there have been mistakes with the arbitrations. Any corrections will take place at the end of the competition.

Email david@bridge4money.com if you have any queries about your arbitrations.

Forthcoming Events:

Real Money is commencing on Feb 1st. We are opening initially with a \$1 room and a 25c room. (i.e. that amount per 100 points).

We do intend to open other stake rooms too.

Help:

Some of you may sometimes struggle with understanding the system, or may wish to ask questions about a hand you have played or bidding sequence you have seen. Also you may be involved in a hand which you would like to have written up in the bulletin. You can always email david@bridge4money.com for advice.

For advice with technical problems to do with the server or interface etc. You should email support@bridge4money.com and someone from our technical support team will respond as soon as possible.

Tips: In each Bulletin we will provide some playing advice.

Here are some useful pointers:

- 1). Try and keep the bidding simple, this way there is less chance of a misunderstanding leading to an accident.
- 2). Keep your pre-empts sound when you are vulnerable.
- 3). Try to avoid psyching. Playing with unfamiliar players it is not likely to be successful.
- 4). Remember 'honours'. If you hold 4 of the top 5 honours in the trump suit in one hand you receive a 100 bonus. If you hold all 5 you receive a 150 bonus. If you hold all 4 aces in one hand in notrumps you receive a 150 bonus.

'Brilliant Bidding @Bridge4money.com'

Take a look at this superbly judged auction that took place a few days ago in the competition room:

Dealer: North, Vul: none

North ♠KQ974
 ♥A54
 ♦T
 ♣AKJ4

South ♠A52
 ♥876
 ♦A5
 ♣Q9863

North	South
1 spade	2 clubs (a)
4 diamonds (b)	4 spades (c)
4 notrumps (d)	5 spades (e)
7 clubs (f)	

- a). A simple bid of 3♠ is possible to limit the hand but 2♣ is fine too.
- b). Showing diamond shortage and club support. See 'splinters' on the system file.
- c). Showing some spade support and suggesting 4s as a contract.
- d). Asking how many 'key-cards' south has. See RKCB on the system file.
- e). Showing 2 of the 5 key-cards and the queen of trumps.
- f). Realising there must be good chances of 13 tricks.

After hearing a response of 2 clubs north agreed clubs with a splinter bid of 4d. South responded 4s showing spade support. When North tried 4nt it was not clear what the trump suit was. South realised that north would be unlikely to be interested only in key cards in spades as clubs had been agreed so responded with 5s to show not only the 2 aces but also the queen of clubs. North now realised that there would be good chances for 5 spade tricks, 5 club tricks, 2 aces and 1 diamond ruff in hand. Indeed when the spades broke 3-2 there were 13 easy tricks. Only 27 combined points but a grand-slam bid and made!

One for your amusement: This deal features the biggest penalty to have occurred so far @bridge4money.com

Dealer East, Vul: all

	♠AQ632	
	♥QJ93	
	♦J85	
	♣4	
♠		♠J95
♥T4		♥AK8652
♦QT2		♦A6
♣AQJT8632		♣95
	♠KT874	
	♥7	
	♦K9743	
	♣K7	

North	East	South	West
-	1 heart	pass	5 clubs (a)
pass	6 clubs (b)	6 spades (c)	double
6nt (d)	Double (e)	pass	pass
pass			

- a). West bids what he thinks he can make and bids it immediately to make it hard for the opponents to find their spade fit.
- b). East Likes his controls and raises 5 clubs to 6.
- c). South decides that maybe their side have a good sacrifice and boldly tries 6 spades.
- d). A mislick or a moment of madness.
- e). Christmas has come again already!

When East-west bid to 6c in double quick time south decided to sacrifice with 6s. This was a good decision as with the club finesse on side 6 clubs would easily make with 100 honours for a score of EW +1470. 6 spades loses only 4 tricks giving EW a score of only +800.

However, north who probably mislicked now bid 6nt which east had no problem in doubling.

The defence was merciless, taking the AK of hearts, A of diamonds and 8 club tricks, leaving north-south with just 2 tricks. 10 off doubled for a score of EW +2900. With the maximum win/loss on any hand capped at 3000 this was only just short!