

Bulletin 2

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Competition News

As we approach the end of the competition there are several players fighting for the lead. 10 players have played over 1000 boards and 13,944 boards have been played in total. We have 124 people eligible for the competition.

The top 10 scores at the time of writing are:

1st	871.72
2nd	829.19
3rd	782.56
4th	765.22
5th	737.04
6th	699.54
7th	666.43
8th	659.37
9th	654.98
10th	645.87

The results of the competition will be calculated at 12pm on January the 31st. Any hands in play at that time will be abandoned. We will post the results and credit the prizes very quickly.

Real Money

On February 1st we go live with 'real money'. We are initially opening a 25c room and a \$1 room. As time goes on we will gradually open other stake rooms and provide more services.

In order to deposit money with us you will need to use 'click to play' an International e-Wallet system. More information shortly in the next newsletter and also on the website.

Rating System:

We are also introducing the rating system. The system is very simple. Players are placed into three categories calculated by their performance on bridge4money.com. You need to play a minimum of 50 hands to get a rating.

- ★ = Bottom 1/3 of players
- ★★ = Middle 1/3 of players
- ★★★ = Top 1/3 of players
- ☆☆ = Played less than 50 boards

You will only be able to see you partner's rating and NOT the opponents ratings. This is for two reasons:

1). You only need to know your partner's rating so that you can adapt your game to play with them.

2). We do not want a scenario where someone is playing with a ★ player against two ★★★ players so deliberately crashes the hand.

Your rating will fluctuate based on recent performance.

Bidding @ Bridge4money.com

There has been a slight problem at the moment in that not everyone is reading and learning the 'bidding system'. It is very important to read and learn the bidding system as you will not only improve your own results but also the enjoyment of the game for all.

We will be introducing a 'bidding test' which everyone is welcome to take. If you pass it, we may in a future software release provide this as an indication to give you more confidence that you and your partner have read and understood the system. We strongly encourage everyone to take the test and to keep taking it until you pass. In this way your partner can trust your bidding and you can trust theirs. If you have any problems in understanding any parts of the system you can email david@bridge4money.com.

Below are some frequently misunderstood areas of the bidding system:

Responses to 4nt 'RKCB'

5♣= 1 or 4

5♦= 0 or 3

5♥= 2 or 5 without the queen of trumps

5♠= 2 or 5 with the queen of trumps

Responses to 1nt (15-17)

2♣= 'stayman'- asking for a 4-card major

2♦= transfer, showing 5+♥

2♥= transfer, showing 5+♠

2♠= transfer, showing 5+♣

2nt= transfer, showing 5+♦

To invite 3nt opposite a 1nt opening bid you need to first bid 'stayman' and then bid 2nt.

e.g. 1nt-2♣-2♥-2nt= invitational (not promising 4♠).

Arbitrations

So far about 2.75% of hands are going to arbitration.

Remember: When you crash you are charged 1 stake unit (i.e. \$1 in the \$1 room and 25c in the 25c room). There are two reasons for this:

- 1).As an administrative fee.
- 2).To discourage deliberate crashes.

You may appeal this fee if your computer has genuinely crashed and we will consider the circumstances. We will not consider appeals where you have crashed due to 'timing out' or have left the table deliberately.

'Frivolity'

We keep track of regular crashers or people who are playing in a manner which may be deemed to be frivolous. Be warned that we reserve the right to ban anyone found guilty of such behaviour.

Tips

- 1).Keep your opening bids sound.
- 2).Most low level doubles are for take out so do not pass them without a good holding in the opponents suit.
- 3).Check the vulnerability before you sacrifice.
- 4).Read and learn the bidding system

Hands From bridge4money.com

We are always looking for hands for our bulletins. If you have a hand that you would like to be written up, with or without your name mentioned please email it, possibly with some explanation to david@bridge4money.com

'Trust Your Partner And You Will Be Rewarded'

The following deal features the largest score to have occurred So Far
@bridge4money.com

Dealer South, Vul: all

			♠AK732	
			♥KJ86	
			♦743	
			♣J	
♠96		N		♠T
♥T952				♥AQ743
♦KJ852	W		E	♦AQT96
♣T2				♣65
			S	
			♠QJ854	
			♥-	
			♦-	
			♣AKQ98743	

North	East	South	West
		1 club (a)	pass
1 spade	2 hearts	5 notrumps (b)	pass
7 spades (c)	Double (d)	Redouble (e)	pass
pass	pass		

- a). With such a complex hand it is best to start at the 1-level to allow maximum bidding spade to describe the hand.
- b). 'Grand slam Force'* asking south to bid 7♠ with two of the top three honours in spades.
- c). Holding the Ace and King of spades north bids 7♠.
- d). Unwise.
- e). South backs his previous judgement and trusts partner.

South dealt and picked up a very exciting hand. Despite the enormous playing strength he correctly opened 1♣. This allows maximum space to describe this complex hand. After west passed, north responded 1♠ and east overcalled 2♥. At this point south had heard the dream response of 1♠ and realised that he only needed the Ace or King of spades to make a small slam and if partner held both, the grand slam would be on. The problem was how to find out...

...South made the excellent bid of 5nt. Although not clearly defined in the system a jump to 5nt carries a standard meaning: "Bid 7 if you have 2 of the top 3 honours" *.

This North was obviously familiar because he immediately jumped to 7♠. Now, holding the east cards you have 2 aces and the opponents have bid a grand slam. Should you double?

You should not double because the your left hand opponent has announced it can make 7♠ opposite 2 of the top 3 honours in spades and your right hand opponent has announced possession of those cards. Therefore Left hand opponent rates to hold something like the actual hand. South completed a short and excellent auction with a sharp redouble.

There were no problems in the play, declarer drawing trumps before claiming 13 easy tricks. Result: NS + 2940!

*A jump to 5nt after a trump suit has been agreed (bidding 5nt before a trump suit has been agreed inferentially agrees the last bid suit) is the '**Grand slam Force-GSF**'. It asks partner to bid 7 of the trump suit with 2 of the top 3 honours. With 1 top honour you sign off in 6 of the trump suit and with no top honour you bid 6♣. If clubs are trumps then you have to sign off in 6♣ whenever you do not have 2 of the top 3 honours.

If there was a competition for '**The best ever hand to leave in partner's take out double**' I think this one would win.
(The following hand occurred recently in our competition room).

You pick up the hand below in 4th position at favourable vulnerability:

♠A9

♥AKT8753

♦-

♣AKJ7

As you are deciding whether to open 1♥ or 2♣ (I prefer 2♣-ed), the hand to your left who dealt, opens 2♥!! As you wonder how you will describe this hand when it comes round to you, partner doubles! Now you have no problem of course. You pass and 2♥ doubled goes 5 down giving you a score of +1400.

The full deal:

	♠3	
	♥QJ9642	
	♦765	
	♣Q83	
♠A9 ♥AKT8753 ♦- ♣AKJ7	N W	♠J6542 ♥- E ♦AK98432 ♣2
	S	
	♠KQT87	
	♥-	
	♦QJT	
	♣T9654	

North might think twice about having such a bad hand for a vulnerable weak 2 in the future...

'Bid Boldly, Play Very Well'

Dealer North, Vul: NS

	♠K752	
	♥542	
	♦AK7	
	♣J87	
♠9 ♥JT963 ♦65 ♣QT652	N W	♠Q86 ♥AKQ8 E ♦QJT82 ♣9
	S	
	♠AJT43	
	♥7	
	♦943	
	♣AK43	

North	East	South	West
pass	1 diamond	1 spade	Double (a)
2 spades (b)	3 hearts (c)	3 spades (d)	4 hearts (d)
4 spades (e)	Doubled (f)	pass	Pass
pass			

- a).A 'negative double'. Promising 4+ hearts and the values to compete. (Or not!)
- b).A bit heavy for 2♠. An 'unassuming cuebid' of 2♦ to show at least a good raise to 2♠ would be better.
- c).East competes opposite partners known heart suit.
- d).South competes the partscore.
- e).Although very light in high cards west likes his shape sufficiently to try 4♥.
- f).North judges that partner will be short in hearts, so the hands will fit well.
- g).East with promising defence doubles the final contract.

A spirited auction was followed up with excellent declarer play. West led the 6 of diamonds which declarer won with dummy's Ace, east encouraging with the 8. Now declarer judged that east having opened 1♦ and then competed in hearts would have spade shortage. He continued with a spade to the Ace and the Jack of spades from hand. When west showed out, discarding the 3 of hearts, declarer had to reconsider. East is known to hold 4 hearts and 3 spades. To compete at the 3-level east is likely to have some extra shape, perhaps a singleton club. West has bid 4♥ on limited values so is likely to have good shape. Declarer was thus inclined to place east with a 3-4-5-1 distribution and west with a 1-5-2-5 distribution and found a neat solution. He overtook the jack of spades with the king and made the subtle play of the 2 of hearts from dummy! This seemingly innocuous play had a devastating effect on the defence's communications. East won the Queen of hearts and cashed the Queen of spades. This Left the following position with east to play:

		♠7		
		♥54		
		♦K7		
		♣J87		
♠-		N		♠-
♥JT9				♥AK8
♦5	W		E	♦QJT2
♣QT65				♣9
		S		
		♠T4		
		♥-		
		♦94		
		♣AK43		

East played the queen of diamonds which declarer won with dummy's king. Declarer now played the 7 of clubs from dummy, winning the trick with the ace as east and west followed. Next our hero played the 3 of clubs from hand. West had to win with the queen as east discarded the 2 of diamonds. What could poor west do now? On the heart return (best) declarer unblocked the Jack of clubs, ruffed a heart back to hand and pitched dummy's 7 of diamonds on the King of clubs. He could now ruff his last diamond in dummy.

Now you see the importance of cutting the defence's communications. Had declarer not played a heart first, west would be able to play a heart to east who could cash a diamond for the setting trick. Result 4s doubled= NS +790.

Going back to the position above:

- 1).What is east's best defence?
- 2).Does declarer have a counter?

Send your answers to david@bridge4money.com

'Nice Defence Partner'

This deal features a very nicely timed defence.

Dealer North, Vul: all

♠KJ93

♥A52

♦63

♣8754

♠QT87	N	♠A5	
♥T3		♥J9874	
♦KT72	W	E	♦AQ9
♣Q92		♣A63	
	S		
	♠642		
	♥KQ6		
	♦J854		
	♣KJT		

West	East
-	1 heart
1 spade	1 notrump
All pass	

After north passed as dealer, east opened 1♥. Perhaps with a balanced hand containing 15 points, 1nt is preferable. West responded 1♠ and east rebid 1nt, showing in principle 12-14 points and a balanced hand.

South, with an unattractive lead found the excellent shot of the 4 of spades. Against 1nt it is usually a good idea to try and avoid giving tricks away. The 4 of spades is the safest lead and on a good day partner may have something useful in the suit over dummy. Declarer tried the T of spades from dummy, which north covered with the Jack and declarer won with the Ace.

At trick two declarer played the 4 of hearts from hand which south carefully won with the Queen to continue with the 6 of spades. Declarer covered with dummy's 7 and north won the trick with the 9 of spades. Now it was north's turn to find an accurate switch and he did so, switching to the 8 of clubs. Declarer played low and south won the trick with the King. South now played the Jack of clubs which declarer won with the Queen in dummy. This is the position now with the defence having taken 3 tricks:

		♠K3	
		♥A5	
		♦63	
		♣75	
♠Q8	N		♠-
♥T			♥J987
♦KT72	W	E	♦AQ9
♣9			♣A
	S		
	♠2		
	♥K6		
	♦J854		
	♣T		

Declarer now played the T of hearts from the dummy, north winning with the Ace, the defence's 4th trick. North continued with the 5 of clubs, declarer winning with the Ace perforce. Now when declarer continued with the 9 of hearts, south was able to win with the king and play the 2 of spades to north's King who could cash the hard earned 7 of clubs for the setting trick. Result 1nt-1 NS + 50. This defence may appear simple but it is an excellent example of both defenders cooperating perfectly with each other.

Finally, a beautifully played 3nt by one of our top 10 competition players.
Dealer West, Vul: none

		♠A73	
		♥J65	
		♦T32	
		♣AKJ8	
♠KJ2	N		♠T84
♥Q872			♥K43
♦AJ54	W	E	♦7
♣Q4			♣976532
	S		
	♠Q965		
	♥AT9		
	♦KQ986		
	♣T		

north	east	south	west
			1 diamond
pass	pass	1 notrump (a)	pass
3 notrumps	pass	pass	pass

a).A 'balancing' 1nt overcall only promises 11-15 points as partner is likely to have some points.

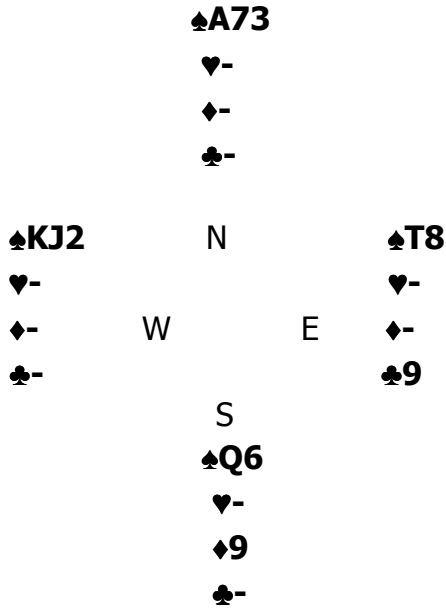
West opened 1♦ as dealer and after two passes south had a tricky decision. At this vulnerability it would not be unreasonable to pass and collect a modest plus score. However, this south was looking for more and overcalled 1nt (in 4th position after two passes only promising 11-15 points). North raised easily to 3nt.

West led the 2 of hearts which was covered with the Jack and King, declarer winning with the Ace. At trick two declarer played the Queen of diamonds from hand, west ducking. Declarer continued with the King of diamonds hoping to pin the Jack (west might have started with A54). West won the Ace as declarer unblocked the T from dummy and east discarded the 4 of spades. Now north cashed the Queen of hearts and excited with the 7 of hearts, declarer winning in hand with the T to leave the following position with NS having taken 3 tricks and lost 2 tricks:

		♠A73		
		♥-		
		♦3		
		♣AKJ8		
♠KJ2	N		♠T8	
♥8			♥-	
♦J5	W	E	♦-	
♣Q4			♣976532	
	S			
		♠Q965		
		♥-		
		♦986		
		♣T		

Now declarer played the T of clubs from hand and when west followed with the 4, overtook with the Jack which held. When declarer cashed the Ace of clubs throwing a spade from hand, east and west followed.

However, when declarer next cashed the King of clubs discarding another spade west was under pressure and elected to discard the 5 of diamonds. Declarer simply played the 3 of diamonds from dummy which west had to win with the Jack. After cashing the 8 of hearts the position was:



West had to either exit with a low spade which declarer could win in hand to cash the 9 of diamonds or west could exit with the King of spades which declarer could win with the Ace and cross back to the Queen to cash the 9 of diamonds. Result 9 tricks made NS + 400.