

Bulletin 4

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News

The real money rooms have open been since February 1st. There are plenty of games in the \$1 and 25c room in the evening (GMT)-until about 1 am. It is less busy at other times but there are usually games. We plan to open the \$5 room soon.

It has been a struggle to get games in the practice room. We are trying to find a solution to this and on Wednesday February 28th at 10pm we hosted a practice session to make sure that people got a game . We plan to hold other practice sessions.

We are having a problem at the moment in accepting funds from the US. This is because the current Law says we cannot accept money from the US players. It also prevents the financial institutions (i.e. click2pay, paypal etc.) from accepting the funds. We are fighting hard to find a solution.

Rating System

Reminder

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

Tips

- 1).Carefully read the system and refer to it during the auction if necessary.
- 2).Try to make things simple for your partner.
- 3).Keep your preempts and overcalls sound.
- 4).Try to avoid bidding a grand slam unless you can count 13 tricks.

'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.

Bidding @ Bridge4money.com

Reminder!

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♠).

When is 4nt NOT Blackwood?

4nt is not blackwood when no suit has been agreed and the last bid was in notrumps.

The most common situations are:

1nt-4nt and 2nt-4nt where 4nt is quantitative, inviting opener to bid a slam.

Note: 1nt-2♣-2any-4nt is also quantitative as although the last bid was not in notrumps responder as effectively bid stayman and upon not finding a fit is simply inviting a slam.

1x-1y-1nt-4nt is also quantitative as is

1b-2a-2nt-4nt.

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

'Watch Out For The Unblock'

Dealer East: Vul EW

NORTH		EAST	
♠T 3		♠A	
♥A Q T 4		♥7 6 2	
♦A J T 7 5 4		♦K 2	
♣4		♣K Q T 9 8 6 3	
WEST			
♠K Q J 9 8 5 4			
♥K			
♦Q 6 3			
♣5 2			
SOUTH			
♠7 6 2			
♥J 9 8 5 3			
♦9 8			
♣A J 7			

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 club	pass	4 spades (a)	4 notrumps (b)
pass	5 hearts	pass	pass
pass			

(a). I prefer 1♠ but 4♠ is not unreasonable.

(b). Very aggressive.

East dealt and opened 1♣ and west responded 4♠. It is unusual to jump to 4♠ with so many points but west feared the opposing heart fit. Now, north reasoned that west must be jumping to 4♠ to keep NS out of the bidding so he produced the very aggressive bid of 4nt asking South to select one of the red suits. South dutifully responded 5♥ and everyone passed.

West led the King of spades which east overtook with the Ace perforce. When east switched to the King of clubs the spade position was clear. Declarer played a heart from hand and was pleased to see the appearance of the King on his left. After winning with the Ace in dummy declarer was at the cross roads. He knew he needed to set up the diamonds without west gaining the lead to cash a spade. The winning line is to cross to hand in hearts and run the 9 of diamonds. (Note that drawing trumps in 3 rounds ending in hand and running the 9 of diamonds fails because east can force dummy with the Q of clubs). However, declarer laid down the Ace of diamonds hoping that east would have to win the next round. Against most players this would have been a successful line but this east alertly unblocked the King of diamonds under the Ace. Now west could win the next round of diamonds and Cash the Queen of spades to defeat the contract.

'Give Declarer A Losing Option'

Dealer South: Vul All

NORTH		
♠A 2		
♥K Q T 6 4 3		
♦6 5		
♣8 7 3		
WEST	EAST	
♠Q J T 8	♠9 7 6 3	
♥A J 5	♥9 8 7	
♦Q J 9 3	♦K T	
♣6 4	♣Q J T 9	
SOUTH		
♠K 5 4		
♥2		
♦A 8 7 4 2		
♣A K 5 2		

South dealt and opened 1 diamond and after an auction which is best not repeated became declarer in 3 notrumps.

West made the natural lead of the Q of spades which South won in hand with the King, preserving dummy's only entry. Declarer's only chance to make the contract is to bring in 5 heart tricks. With that in mind he played the two of hearts from hand and when west followed with the 5 of hearts he finessed the Ten! When that held he played the King of hearts, west winning with the Ace. When west continued spades declarer won with the Ace in dummy and when east and west followed to the Queen of hearts declarer could claim 10 tricks. It is difficult to spot but west could have given declarer a chance to go wrong. Suppose when declarer plays the 2 of hearts from hand that west makes the strange looking play of the Jack!? Now declarer has the option of winning with the King and playing a small heart from dummy, playing west for an original holding of AJ doubleton. Declarer might still get it right but in this way west would create a losing option for declarer.

Note that the play of the Jack can never cost. If declarer has a doubleton heart he can always lead twice towards dummy and if he has a singleton heart he will always finesse the Ten on the first round as playing the King or Queen will never win 5 tricks.

'Remember the Bidding'

Dealer South: Vul All

	NORTH	
	♠9 3	
	♥A 2	
	♦A Q 9 8 6 4	
	♣J T 8	
WEST		EAST
♠J		♠T 7 6 5
♥K Q T 4		♥9 8 7 6 5
♦T 7 5		♦J 3
♣A K Q 9 2		♣5 4
	SOUTH	
	♠A K Q 8 4 2	
	♥J 3	
	♦K 2	
	♣7 6 3	

S	W	N	E
1♠	double	redouble	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	pass
pass	4♥	double	pass
4♠	pass	pass	pass

After a spirited auction in which South had removed his partner's penalty double of 4♥ he had to justify his decision with excellent card reading.

West Led 3 rounds of clubs on the last of which east discarded the 5 of hearts. West switched to the King of hearts. South won the Ace and reasoning that West was likely to have a singleton spade he played the 9 of spades to the Ace (a farsighted unblock). When the Jack dropped he crossed to dummy with the Queen of diamonds and confidently played a spade to the 8! (Now you see why he unblocked the 9).

The problem was that now the diamonds were blocked. However, declarer demonstrated that this did not matter. He ran off his trumps to reach this position:

♠-	
♥-	
♦A 9 8	
♣-	
♠-	
♥-Q	IMMATERIAL
♦-T 7	
♣-	
♠2	
♥J	
♦K	
♣-	

When declarer played the 2 of spades west was squeezed. If he threw a heart, declarer's Jack of hearts would be high and if he threw a diamond declarer could overtake the King of diamonds with the Ace and cash dummy's 9 of diamonds for the Tenth trick.

