

## An interesting hand!

Here are the details of the bridge hand that Sandra Canning sent in, which was bid to and made 7 NT. Dealer East, N/S were vulnerable.

	<b>N</b>		
	@KQ9		
	`AJ		
<b>W</b>	~AQ65	<b>E</b>	
@642	K863	@10875	
`972		`854	
~82	<b>S</b>	~J974	
QJ10 94	@AJ3	75	
	~KQ1063		
	~K103		
	A2		

I was sitting North. East and West took no part in the bidding. South opened 1<sup>^</sup> and North responded 2<sup>|</sup> (partnership agreement and confident of a rebid from partner) South bid 2NT. North bid 4NT (Blackwood) and received a 5<sup>`</sup> bid from south. North bid 5NT and on getting a 6<sup>`</sup> reply from partner bid 7NT.

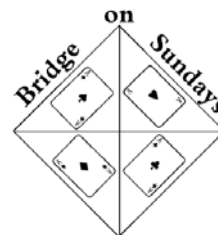
### Comment:

Very well done Sandra, since few pairs will bid the grand slam even in good clubs. The bidding is a matter of style, but after 2 clubs isn't 3NT the correct response by opener?

### Opening 1 Spade

There is an excellent case for always having at least 5 cards in spades when you open 1<sup>@</sup>. Those playing 5 card majors already do this, but those playing 'Standard English' should also. Open 1NT with any hand that contains no long suit, no singleton, and is within your no-trump range. Remember to think of your rebid before opening with a suit bid! With hands that are outside these criteria: where you hold two 4-card suits, one of which is @s, open the lower suit (with |s and @s, open 1<sup>|</sup>, with ~s and @s open 1<sup>~</sup>; with `s and @s open 1<sup>`</sup>). For hands with three 4-card suits, open 1<sup>|</sup> with one suit being |s, or 1<sup>`</sup> if there is no | suit. Supposing you only have one 4-card suit and that is @s. Then open 1<sup>|</sup>. After all you have more points than an opening 1NT and 4-3-3-3 shape so you can rebid in NTs unless partner responds 1<sup>@</sup>.

When you open 1<sup>@</sup> partner has no choice of a 1 level bid except 1NT, and with 5-6 pts and a singleton @ can pass rather than strain to make a bid. Partner can give you preference to a 5-2 fit in @s rather than a 4-3 fit in another suit. Try it.



## Bridge on Sundays Summer 2008 issue 28

### Editorial

Time flies, especially when you are having fun and attending Bridge on Sundays! Since the last issue our numbers have been boosted by a group of new players and we extend them a very warm welcome. As we pride ourselves on being a friendly club, I hope the newcomers feel at home and that our longer standing members will encourage them in their learning process. Learning bridge is a bit like building a wall using very small bricks and it can seem to take an awfully long time before you see any progress!

In the summer we play handicap pairs. The handicap factor is worked out from your winter performances, by dividing 100% by your average % in the winter. If you had scored 40%, then your factor is 2.5. The factors are then slightly weighted towards the less good players to give them a good chance of winning a prize. Then in the summer your handicap score is

reached by multiplying the % score you get by the factor. If everything went to plan then everyone would end up with a handicap score around 100%. The overall winner without handicap still gets first prize, then the next three prizes are decided by handicap. There is an additional first prize if you score 66% as N-S or E-W but do not come first overall.

In the winter we play pairs and sometimes teams. The winners N-S & E-W get prizes, usually the first two. At the end of the season in May we give out addition prizes for the pairs that have done best, and for the highest percentage score.

Jenny & Peter are our current winners, and past winners include Tony & Pat, Penny & Brian, Beryl & M. The highest score of all time was won by Joan & Bob.

## Responding at the 2 level

Your partner opens one-of-a-suit (normally holding 12-19 points). When should you raise the bidding to the 2-level?

If you have 6-9 points and 4 cards in your partner's bid suit, you should raise to the 2-level. This is particularly important if partner opens one of the majors as the suit fit is quickly established, and opener can decide whether to bid on or to pass.

If partner opens one of a major suit and you CANNOT support it, you need 9-10 points and a 4/5-card suit to change suit at the 2-level. An exception to this requirement would be if your suit is particularly good or if you hold 6 of it.

You should always bid a 4 card suit at the 1 level rather than bid 1NT, but when partner opens 1@ you have little choice

The 'rule of 14' can sometimes help. This 'rule' states that you add up the number of points held plus the length in the suit you want to bid, and if the sum comes to 14 you can bid at the 2-level. If not and holding 6-9 pts bid 1NT. So with a new 4 card suit you need 10pts to bid that suit at the 2 level. It is often a matter of judgement whether to bid at the 2-level or bid 1 no-trump. Holding a suit AKxxxx and 7 points, and 3 cards in partner's major suit, although the

'sum' does not reach 14, it is better to show the suit rather than bid 1NT. With a poor suit, AJxxxx, bid 1NT.

## The New Laws

As of the 1st August new laws apply to duplicate bridge and the main points are summarized here.

**1.** Players are now required to shuffle their cards at the end of the hand before returning them to the board.

**2.** Defenders are now allowed to ask partner about a possible revoke, as long as it is before any play to the next trick. Say "having none partner?". The defender can then substitute a card of the suit led, and the card faced in error becomes a major penalty card. This prevents a revoke penalty being awarded against the defender. Dummy has always had the right to ask declarer about a revoke.

**3.** There is a short period between the final pass and the opening card being faced, when questions can be asked. This is now the "Clarification Period".

Members of the declaring side may consult their system card to check that nothing has been explained incorrectly or not alerted, and inform defenders of any mistake. Defenders must not point out any indiscretion by

partner until the hand is complete.

**4.** It is now permissible to ask about individual bids but not in a way that could convey information to partner. Do not ask unless you intend to make a bid. Eg an opening bid of 1 club is not alerted and the next player asks "Is that natural?" implying he may have a holding in clubs. Subsequently if the final contract is, say, 3NT and asker's partner then leads from a 3 card club suit the director, if called, should rule against any favourable result achieved by defenders and award an adjusted score. At the end of the auction you can ask for a review of the bidding with explanations.

**5.** Players are now allowed to point out that quitted tricks are pointing the wrong way. Declarer can do this at any time, but dummy and defenders can only do it until the lead to the next trick is faced.

## The English Bridge Union

At present, clubs that issue Master Points have to affiliate to the EBU, and players who want to register mps or play in certain county events also have to join the EBU. All this is going to change in 2010, because the EBU needs to increase its

membership base. Less than 50% of the members of some clubs are members of the EBU. Clubs will still need to affiliate but then all members of that club will automatically be a member of the EBU. The individual subscription will be no more but in its place the EBU plans to introduce a pay-to-play scheme, which will result in those clubs putting up table money by 50p for ease of collection. What will you get for this? A poor magazine! For the casual player who is currently an EBU member, there is little change since their sub of around £20 will be offset by the extra 50p table money. Those who play 3 times a week, less holidays etc, will be paying more, but in reality, bridge is a cheap game. The losers will be those not interested in mps, but paying more each week.

Bridge on Sundays is common with other small clubs in the area, that do not issue mps, will not affiliate, so we would not be affected by this scheme. More of our players will be members of the EBU, because they play at Hatfield Heath on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. If you want a bridge magazine, Mr Bridge offers a much better one, free, just write to him.