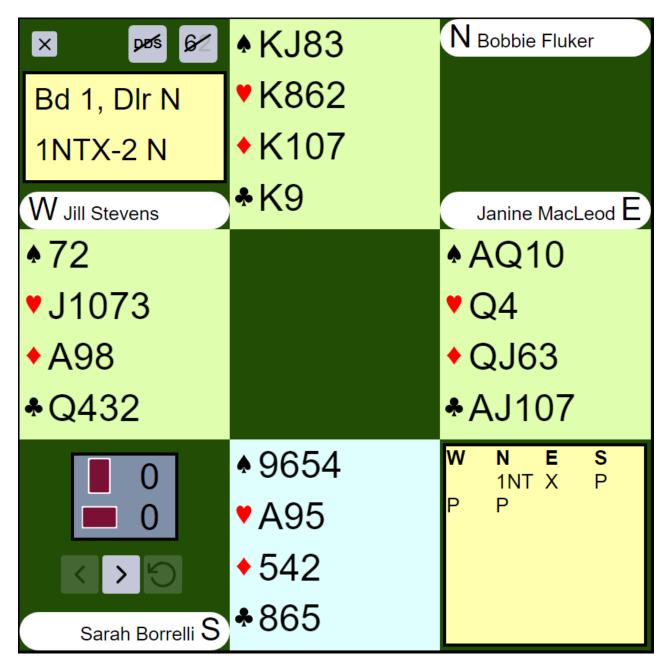
1st September 2024

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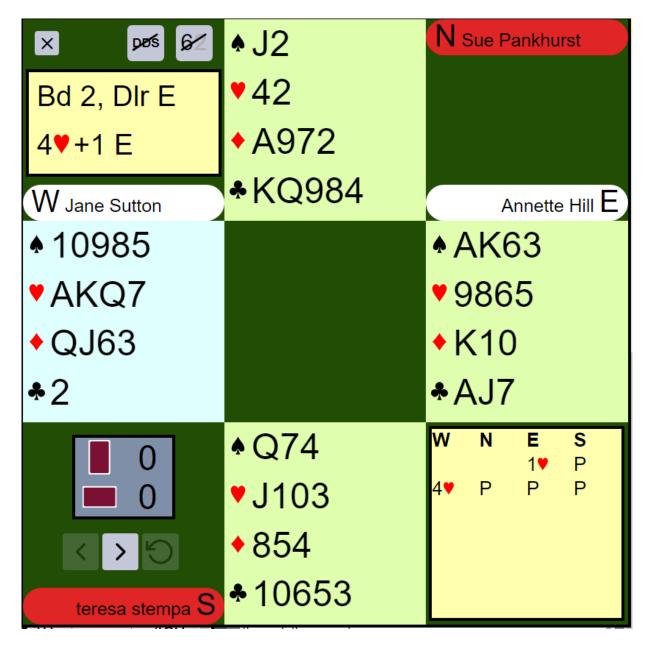
A few things you will not find in the beginners lessons.

Penalty Double Rule of 20	Board 1 Board 11	
More advanced	Negative Doubles	Board 12

BOARD 1



The Double of 1NT is called a PENALTY Double, showing 15/16+ points. West with 5+ points should pass, knowing that 1NT should not make. In theory 1NT could go 4 off; East West collecting 800. 1NT Doubled Not Vulnerable -2 is 300 to East West. Vulnerable it would be 500 to East West.



East is a bit too strong to open 1NT, so opens the lowest of their two 4 cards suits -1

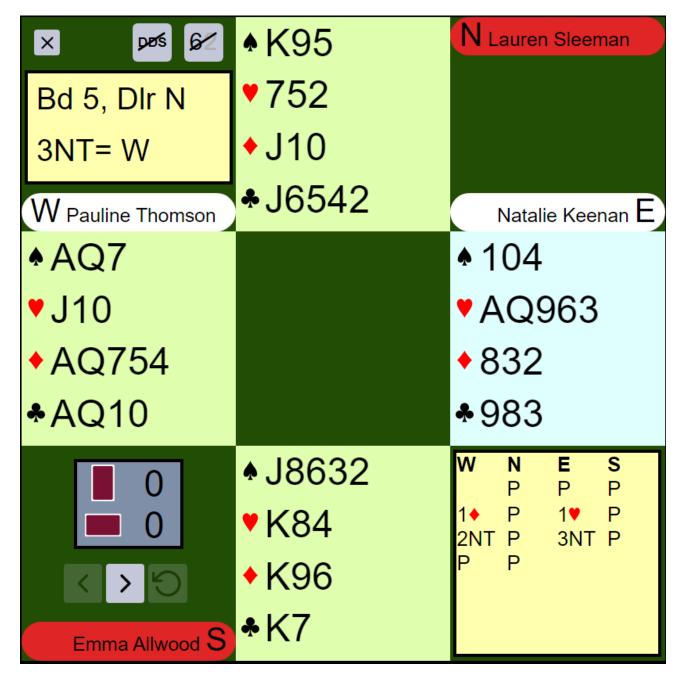
West could bid 3♥ showing 4 Hearts and 10 to 12 points, but with 12 points and a Singleton I would prefer to bid game.

W	Ν	Е	S	
		1♥	Ρ	
3♥	Ρ	4♥	Р	
P	Ρ			

BOARD 3

× 🗾 🖉	♠	N Murray Wackrow
Bd 3, Dlr S	♥AJ1052	
4 ♦ = E	◆ 987	
W PAUL SHELDON	∗ 97643	Valerie Sheldon E
 ▲102		♦ QJ986543
♥K93		♥4
♦KQ65		♦AJ3
*AQ82		* 10
0	♦AK7	WNES 1NT
0	V Q876	P 2♥ 4♠ P P P
< > 5	♦ 1042	
Marilyn Cross S	∗ KJ5	

West does not have anything to bid over 1NT. Remember, Double shows 15/16+ points. North should bid 2♥ showing 5+ Hearts and ZERO to 10 points. Bidding 4♠ Vulnerable is a bit scary but partner should have some points as North South should have a maximum of 24 points.

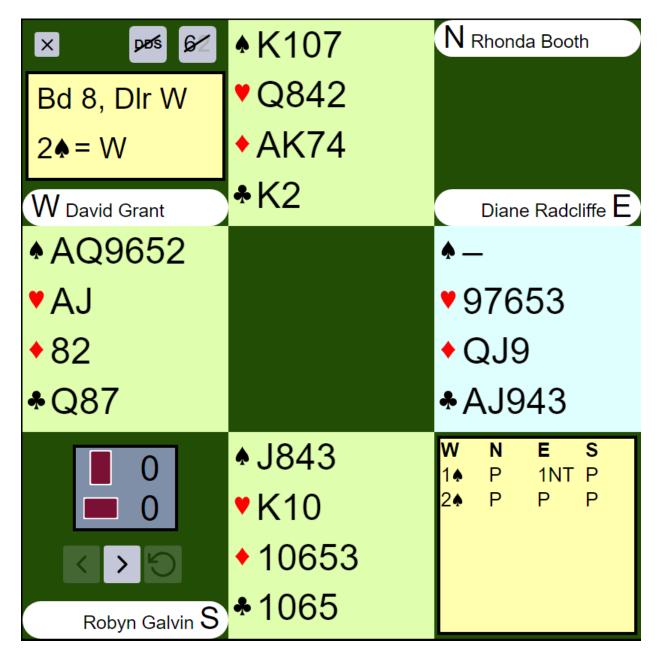


Pauline rebid 2NT to show a balanced 18 to 19 points. East with 6 points must bid again.

× pers 6⁄2	* 7	N Lisa White
Bd 7, Dlr S	♥ 95	
4 ♠ +1 W	◆QJ65	
W Alex Meyer	* 1095432	Robyn Maggs E
♦K9632		♦ A105
♥ AQ		♥K10764
◆ 98		◆AK104
∗ KQ87		♣ J
0	♦ QJ84	WNES P
— 0	♥J832	1♠ P 2♥ P 2♠ P 4♠ P P P
< > 5	◆ 732	РР
Robyn Blackburn S	♣ A6	

Alex correctly rebid 2 showing 5+ Spades and 12 to 14 points. Bidding 3 would have gone past the BARRIER and shown 15+ points in these circumstances (as partner has shown 10 + points).

Robyn knew they had an 8 card Spade fit and at least 27 points together so bid game.

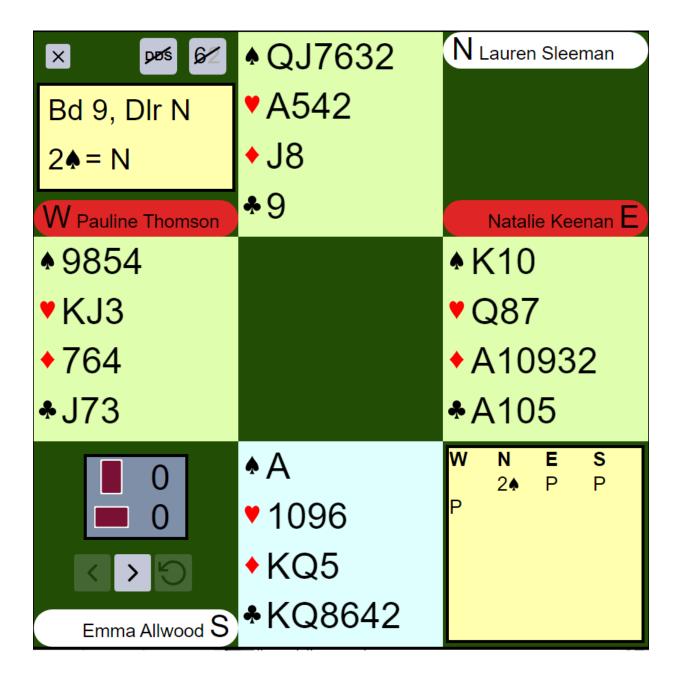


North does not have quite the right hand to Double as they only have 2 Clubs, and do not have a 5 card suit to overcall.

East bids 1NT. The **RESPONSE** of last RESORT. As you can see this does NOT promise a balanced hand.

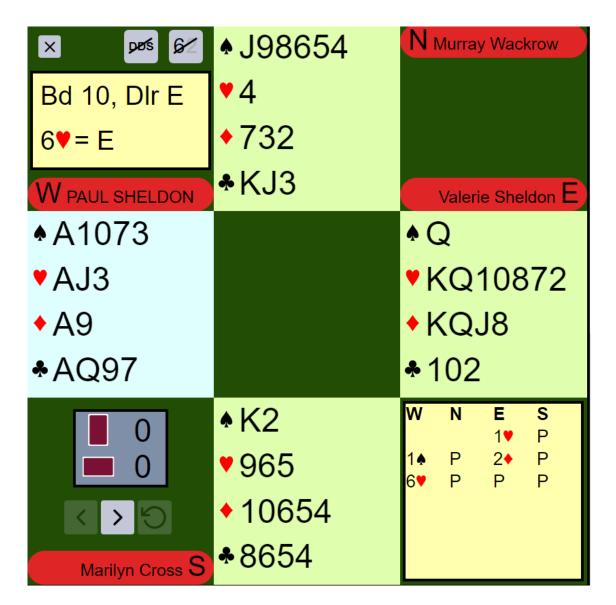
Could North have bid anything? Yes I see a few people overcalled 1NT to show a balanced 15/16 to 18 points with a high card in Spades (known as a STOP – To stop the opponents running lots of Spade tricks).

It is not a great 15 points, so if you passed that was a reasonable option.



The Spade suit is not that great but when you are Not Vulnerable and the opponents are Vulnerable you can afford to be less cautious. It is true that some experts don't like to open a weak two with another 4 card Major. Personally, I like to make things as difficult as possible for the opposition even at the expense of very occasionally missing out on a game in the other suit.

South should PASS. There is somewhere between 20 and 24 combined points. They know they have a 7 card spade fit which is OK. Yes we prefer to have an 8 card fit but it is not worth going higher looking for one when you don't have enough points for game. As it happens on this occasion, there is no 8 card fit.



Valerie opened 1♥ and rebid 2♦ to show 5+ Hearts and 4+ Diamonds and 12+ points. With unbalanced hands like East's it is often possible to make a Slam with 30+ points if you have a fit.

BOARD 11

Do you bid on this hand?

If you use the RULE of 20 you will.

5 Clubs + 4 Spades + 11 points = 20.

Just enough to open. Are most of the points in your suits?

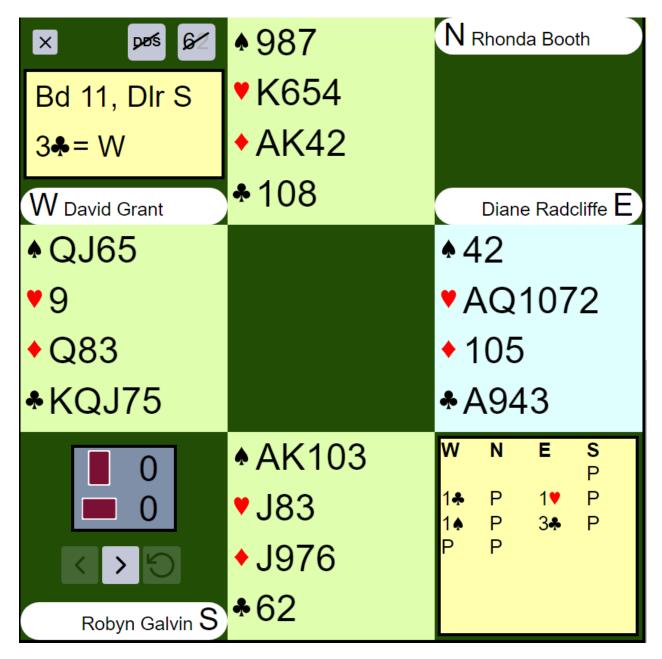
Answer: YES. That is good.

Are you embarrassed about opening your & suit?

Answer: **NO.** That is good.

Open 1♣.

♦ QJ65
♥ 9
♦ Q83
♦ KQJ75



Even though Diane had Club support, she correctly looked to see if they also had a Heart fit. After David bid 1♠, Diane showed Club support and 10 to 12 points. David had no problem passing.

× pres 6⁄2	▲ A97	N Julian Anthony Brady
Bd 12, Dlr W	♥8	
4 ♦ = S	• QJ10854	
W Anna	♣ AJ2	valerie mack E
ل ا		1082
♥643		♥AKQJ95
•K732		◆ 9
* 87543		♣ Q96
0	♦KQ6543	W N E S P 1♦ 1♥ 1♠
	• 1072	P 2♦ 2♥ 3♠ P 4♠ P P
< > 5	◆A6	P
Claire Gordon S	∗ K10	

South bid $3 \ge 10$ to show 6+ Spades and 10 to 12 points. North had no trouble bidding $4 \ge 100$.

Did you read my article at the end of last week's report about Negative Doubles?

If you play Negative Doubles, how may Spades does South have?

Answer: 5+. With exactly 4, South should Double.

Now North can support Spades as they know they have an 8+ card fit.

This is a time when an overcall can help Opener.

Duncan the Bad

P.S. If you spot any errors please let me know duncan.the.bad.nz@gmail.com

