

MONDAY AFTERNOON PAIRS

28/10/2024



Board 13

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ A Q 6
♥ Q 7
♦ A 8 5
♣ A K J 7 6

♠ —
♥ A J 8 5 3 2
♦ K J 9 7 4 3 2
♣ —



♠ J 8 5 3
♥ 9 6
♦ Q 6
♣ 10 8 5 4 3

♠ K 10 9 7 4 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ 10
♣ Q 9 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Dbl	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♥ ¹	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♣	Dbl
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. !!!

exceptions. Here you need to consider your rebid, and you just “know” your partner will bid 1♠ (a change of suit at the 1 level by responder is forcing for one round), or the opposition will overcall. Even if you thought the hand was good enough to reverse into hearts, you may not get the chance, and very likely, you won’t get the chance to show the extreme shape. Would you bid 5♥ after this sequence?

Despite breaking the rule of longest suit first (never done lightly), I would open 1♥ and plan to keep repeating diamonds to the 5 level. Maybe, just maybe, you’ll get an auction like the one shown. Note that after a spade barrage by the opposition, you can bid 5♦ comfortably, and partner can give preference.

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	?		

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Dbl	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥ ¹
Dbl	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass ²			

- 1. Borderline
- 2. Sigh

4♥ is easy with just the ♥Q and ♦AQ to lose. 6♥ is not a good contract but your luck is in on this deal with hearts breaking 2-2, so long as you get the diamonds right. On a heart lead 11 tricks are easy whether hearts break 2-2 or not, so let’s say East leads a spade or club which you ruff in hand. 2 lines of play spring to mind to make overtricks. Play a diamond to the ♦10 at trick 2, or play a trump to the ♥K and the ♦10 from dummy, and hope to ruff the diamonds good. Whichever you choose (West would do really well to duck smoothly if the 2nd line is chosen), if East wins the ♦Q at trick 2 or 3, and forces you with another spade or club, you are in serious danger of losing control if hearts break 3-1 and you attempt to ruff out the ♦A.

My thanks to Joyd Mitra for sharing this hand. Do, please, continue to send me any interesting or difficult hands you’ve come across at the club.

Don’t you just love random hand generators? The next time you can expect to see a 7-6 hand at York Bridge Club is 2038!

Just imagine your delight at picking up the North hand, followed by consternation as you ponder what to do with it. And pity poor West, a 2NT opening hand destined for a failed defence. Unsurprisingly, 6 different contracts were reached at 7 tables, and just look at the pig’s ear my robots made of the bidding.

On all measures of hand valuation, the North hand is worth an opening bid. It satisfies the rule of 20, and is worth 14 when you add length points (don’t add shortage points unless you have a fit). Some Norths may even pass in the hope of showing a big 2-suiter next time around.

So, if you choose to open, what should it be? I am usually a stickler for the rule “always open your longest suit” but, as with all bidding rules, they should be treated as guidance only, and there will always be