

Barometer Game - Sat July 6, 2019

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 10 3	♠ Q 7	♠ 9 8 6 2									
♥ 8 6 5 3 2	♥ 4	♥ A K 10 9 7									
♦ A 5 4	♦ Q J 10 7	♦ 9 2									
♣ 2	♣ K Q 10 8 6 5	♣ J 7									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ K 5 4											
♥ Q J											
♦ K 8 6 3											
♣ A 9 4 3											

EW 4♥; EW 3♠; NS 4♣; NS 3♦; EW 1N; Par -100; NS 5♣×-1

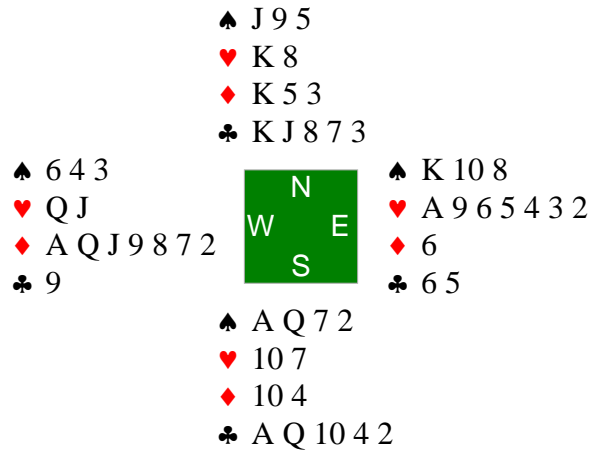
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Dbl ¹	4 ♣ ²	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	5 ♣ ³	Dbl ⁴	All pass

1. Little bit light on high card points for the take-out double but West does have great shape.
2. Preempt as high as you can right away. Ten trumps, bid 4 ♣.
3. One of the principles of preempting is to do it as high you can right away. North may suspect that partner may be 4-4 in the majors and therefore, not willing to bid too high. This argument has merit. As a result, North waited until EW reached 4 ♥ and then bids 5 ♣. It may push opponents into 5 ♥ down one.
4. As expected, NS should not be allowed to sacrifice over an EW game, un-doubled.

NS have unavoidable three losers for doubled down one but since EW are making 4 ♥, minus 100 is an excellent score.

And if EW bid the unmakeable 5 ♥, it will be defeated easily since declarer cannot avoid a loser in every suit other than trumps. Instead of a minus score, EW will get +50!

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul



NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 2N; EW 3♦; NS 2♣; Par +100; EW 4♦×-1;
 EW 4♥×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♦ ²	3NT ³	Pass ¹	1♣
		All pass	

1. It is not a good idea to preempt with 3-card support for the other major and a bad suit headed by an ace. If partner has 5 spades, one heart and about 12 points, a 4♠ game may be missed.
2. West has the hand to preempt 3♦ after her right hand opponent opens the bidding 1♣.
3. This puts pressure on North who makes a reasonable call of 3NT; a contract that has a reasonable chance of making.

3NT is not a bad contract but it is a low percentage game since both red suits are breaking badly and South only has 12 points.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ — ♦ K 8 6 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 5		♠ A J 5 3 ♥ K 9 6 5 3 ♦ 9 ♣ K 3 2	♠ Q 7 6 ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 ♦ A 10 ♣ A 10 7
		♠ 8 4 ♥ A J 2 ♦ Q J 7 5 ♣ Q 8 6 4	

N 2♥; EW 3♦; NS 1N; EW 1♠; S 1♥; N 1♣; Par -100: N 3♥×-1

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass ¹	1♥ ²	Pass	2♣ ³
Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass ⁵	Pass
Pass			

1. Never open a minor suit preempt when holding good support for a major.
2. Light opening bid that meets the Hi-Le-QT Rule of 18-19.
3. Drury, 3-card limit raise for hearts
4. No thank you!
5. East is happy to defend 2♥ but will soon find out that 2♥ cannot be defeated. In fact, 3♦ by EW cannot be defeated either.

Against, 2♥ by North, East will probably lead a spade. North must not duck because West can switch to ♣ J to win two club tricks for the defense.

North should win ♠ A and play a diamond preparing for a cross ruff, if possible. East wins ♦ A perforce and will probably continue spades. North will be able to ruff out ♦ K later.

If West had ♦ A, a club shift could still come through declarer's ♣ K32 creating two club losers for the declarer. Nothing can be done if that were the case.

There are various lines of play but East will be end-played sooner or later, when forced to ruff something. She will have to lead a trump into NS holding. All in all, eight tricks should be available to North with hearts as trump.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ J 8 5
♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2
♣ A Q

♠ K 9 3 2
♥ Q 10 9 7 6
♦ 9 3
♣ 10 7

♠ A 8 7 5
♥ A 4 3
♦ A J 8
♣ J 3 2

♠ Q J 6
♥ K 2
♦ K 5
♣ K 9 8 6 5 4

W N
S E

EW 2♠; EW 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +110

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass ¹	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass ²	1♠	2♣ ³
2♠	Pass ⁴	Pass	Pass

1. Vulnerable 2♦ bid by North needs a better hand.
2. North hand was not strong enough for a vulnerable Weak-2 in diamonds. Then, it is certainly not good enough for a 2-level overcall in a live auction when both opponents have taken a bid.
3. Having passed 1♣, South can now bid it naturally.
4. Being vulnerable, it is not clear that North can raise 2♣ to 3♣.
At most tables, 2♠ will be the final contract.

South will probably lead a club, which looks safer than any other lead. After cashing ♣ AQ, North should lead a diamond but it does not matter. Declarer must lose one trump, ♥ K, two club tricks and one diamond but 2♠ will make.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 9 8 5	♠ 10 2	♠ Q 7
♥ K Q 9 7 6	♥ 10 3	♥ 8 5 4 2
♦ 9 4	♦ A J 10 2	♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ 8 6	♣ K Q 4 3 2	♣ A J 7

♠ K J 6 4 3
♥ A J
♦ K Q 7
♣ 10 9 5

EW 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; Par +100; EW 3♥×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT ¹	Pass	2 ♣ ²
Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass	Pass ⁴
Pass			

1. If you play two-way Drury, it is useful to play 1 NT Forcing even by a passed hand.
2. Even if you don't, the agreement should be for the opening bidder to only pass with a balanced minimum. Here, South will not pass with 14 points. She should bid 2 ♣.
3. North with ten points, five clubs and three 10's decides to raise.
4. However, South does not like her 14 points with ♥ AJ doubleton and no 10's or 9's herself.

South in 3 ♣ on a heart lead, should lose one spade, one heart and two clubs for +110.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ K	♠ Q J 10 5 4	♠ 8 7 6
♥ 8 7 4	♥ Q J 9 6	♥ K 10 5 2
♦ Q 9 4 2	♦ A 10	♦ K 8 7 6 5
♣ A Q J 5 4	♣ K 7	♣ 3

♠ A 9 3 2
♥ A 3
♦ J 3
♣ 10 9 8 6 2

NS 4♠; NS 2N; E 3♦; W 2♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♥; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦ ¹	Dbl ²	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♠	3♦ ³	3♠ ⁴
Pass		Pass ⁵	Pass

1. Normal to open 1♦ when holding a minimum 4-5 minor suit hand.
2. Normal take-out double with both majors; however, North could overcall 1♠ and then bid hearts.
3. Regardless, East should be prepared to preempt 3♦ despite being vulnerable.
4. Although the bidding is at the 3-level, South does have 9 points, four trumps and two aces, enough to show support.
5. Only the unfavorable vulnerability stops EW from sacrificing in 5♦.

Unfortunately, most of the declarers will take the spade finesse and go down one in 4♠ after losing a trick in each suit.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 7	♠ Q 10	♠ J 9 5
♥ A Q J 9 7 4	♥ K 8 3	♥ 10 6
♦ J 9 8 3	♦ K 7 6 5 2	♦ A Q
♣ A	♣ 8 6 3	♣ K Q J 9 7 5

♠ K 8 6 4 3 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 9 5
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 5 2		♥ 10 6			
♦ 10 4		♦ A Q			
♣ 10 4 2		♣ K Q J 9 7 5			

EW 6♥; EW 5N; EW 5♣; W 4♦; W 2♠; E 3♦; E 1♠; Par -1430

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass ¹
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣ ²	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣ ³	Pass
3 ♥ ⁴	Pass	4 ♥ ⁵	All pass

1. Nobody should preempt 2 ♠ with that South hand.
2. Good enough to force game if you play 2-over-1 GF system.
3. East is not able to bid 3 NT due to lack of a stopper in spades.
4. Promising six hearts.
5. If East had ♦ AK instead of ♦ AQ, she could have tried for slam in hearts by bidding 4 ♦, a control showing cue-bid. West on the other hand may have been able to imagine slam possibilities with the knowledge that partner does not have anything in spades and therefore all other points will be working opposite her hand.

As it turns out, slam chances were not that great. To succeed, diamond finesse had to be on, clubs needed to be 3-3 and South's trumps had to be smaller than the ♥ 10 so that South cannot overruff when West tries to ruff the 3rd round of diamonds in dummy.

Line of play to make 6 ♥ would go as follows:

- Win the club lead in hand and take the diamond finesse.
- Discard a spade on the ♣ K.
- Then, cash ♦ A and play a heart to the ♥ A.
- Ruff a diamond with the ♥ 10, then cash the ♣ Q to discard the last diamond.
- Ruff a spade back to West hand and give up a trick to the ♥ K.

As you can see, several good things had to happen for the slam to come home.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

	♠ Q 6		
	♥ K J 8 7		
	♦ K J 9 3		
	♣ A 5 4		
♠ 5 4 3			♠ K 9 8
♥ A 10 6 4			♥ Q 3 2
♦ 10 6 4			♦ A Q 8 2
♣ 9 8 3			♣ Q J 6
	♠ A J 10 7 2		
	♥ 9 5		
	♦ 7 5		
	♣ K 10 7 2		

NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 2♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	3♠ ³
Pass	3NT ⁴	All pass	

1. New Minor Forcing based on Losing Trick Count and 5-card spade suit.
2. This jump to 3♥ is part of NMF convention. It promises four hearts and the maximum balanced hand. It does NOT deny the possession of three spades.
3. South bids 3♠ to ask if partner has 3-card support in addition to four hearts she has already shown.
4. Nope. North shows 2-4-4-3 hand and 14 points.

Although ten tricks are available in 4♠ but only nine in 3NT, it is difficult to bid 4♠. North may have been able to venture a raise to 4♠ based on doubleton ♠Q but it was not clear to North that 4♠ may score better than 3NT.

Against 3NT, the normal lead is ♦2. West's ♦10 forces the ♦J from North who can take five spade tricks by finessing twice against ♠K. But then, she may lose two hearts and two diamonds making nine tricks.

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ A K 8 3	♠ 9 4 2	♠ Q J 10 7
♥ 8 6 3	♥ 9 4 2	♥ A Q J 7 5
♦ J 8 7	♦ Q 10 9 4	♦ K 6
♣ Q J 5	♣ 10 8 4	♣ K 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ 6 5	
	♥ K 10	
	♦ A 5 3 2	
	♣ A 9 7 6 2	

EW 4♠; EW 4♥; EW 2N; NS 1♦; NS 1♣; Par -620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♥ ¹	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

1. There should be no doubt that this hand should be opened 1 ♥, not 1 NT. Even a 3-5-3-2 hand with 16 points should open 1 ♥.
2. Having found a 4-4 fit, now it is time to tell partner about the strength of East hand.

Most North players will lead ♦ 10 from the internal sequence headed by a high honor, especially in a suit that was not bid by the opponents.

Declarer should let the ♦ 10 run to her ♦ J. If both ♦ AQ are offside, there is nothing that can be done. Luckily, it draws out the ♦ A limiting the suit to only one loser. After that start, it is just a matter of drawing trumps and losing two more tricks to the ♥ K and ♣ A. 4 ♠ should make four at every table.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 6	♠ A 4 3	♠ K 10 7 5 2
♥ J 5 2	♥ A K 10 6 3	♥ 9 7 4
♦ Q 10 9 6	♦ K 4	♦ A 8 5
♣ K 10 8 6 5	♣ A Q 3	♣ 7 4

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ Q 8
♦ J 7 3 2
♣ J 9 2

NS 4♠; NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 2♦; S 2♣; N 1♣; Par +620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass ¹	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 NT ³
All pass			


1. West hand does NOT meet the Hi-Le-QT Rule of 18-19 for a light opening bid and must pass.
2. Strong jump shift promising 18-21 points can be made in a 3-card fragment like ♣ AQ3.
3. South does not have heart or club support and settled into 3 NT.

Diamond lead is called for but that does not bother the declarer too much since hearts are 3-3.

One diamond trick, five hearts, two clubs via the finesse and one spade add up to nine tricks and a score of +600. Alternatively, South could play ♠ A and another spade towards the remaining ♠ QJ9 to win two spade tricks. However, the defense by that time has won three diamonds and the ♠ K. All roads lead to only nine tricks for North.

Again, 4 ♥ would have scored higher because opponents cannot win three diamond tricks in a trump contract. The defensive tricks are limited to one diamond, one spade and one club. In fact, East should not allow the second spade winner by holding up her ♠ K for one round then play a club into ♣ AQ3.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A K J 9 6 ♣ J 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ K J 7 6 3 2 ♦ 10 7 ♣ K 5</p>		<p>♠ A K J 10 8 ♥ 10 9 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A Q 7</p>
<p>♠ Q 7 3 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 10 9 8 6</p>			

EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 4♣; EW 1N; Par -420

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	2♥ ¹	2♠ ²	Pass ³
3♦ ⁴	Pass	3♥ ⁵	Pass
3♠ ⁶	Pass	4♠	All pass

1. It is perfectly fine to preempt in the 3rd seat, non-vulnerable, with the North hand.
2. Good overcall of 2♠ but not strong enough to double and bid spades.
3. South must not be tempted into raising 2♥ to 3♥ with 3-3-3-4 hand where she has no aces and kings in the side suits. West is bound to double 3♥, which should be down three for minus 500.
4. West has to do something with close to 10 points.
5. Instead of raising 3♦ to 4♦, East should show extra values by cue-bidding hearts. It implies support for diamonds but also allows West to offer 4♠ as an alternative.
6. Pass or correct to 5♦. West asks if East has good enough spades to play 4♠ instead of 5♦. Please note West has denied 3-card support when she bid 3♦ over 2♠.

Here is an example where 3NT is out of the question since EW have two small hearts each. This forces EW to play 4♠ on a 5-2 fit (as it should) or play 5♦ on a 5-3 fit (but 5♦ requires one more trick than 4♠). Good bidding to settle in the major suit game on a 5-2 fit.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ —	♠ K J 9 3 2	♠ 10 8 7 4									
♥ J 9 7 4 2	♥ 8 3	♥ A K 6									
♦ J 7 3	♦ K Q 9 4	♦ 10 2									
♣ Q 10 7 4 2	♣ A K	♣ J 9 8 5									
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	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A Q 6 5										
	♥ Q 10 5										
	♦ A 8 6 5										
	♣ 6 3										

NS 5N; NS 5♠; S 3♦; N 2♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♥; Par +660

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 NT ²	Pass	4 ♠ ³
All pass			

1. Jacoby 2 NT, game forcing raise to 4 ♠ with four or more trumps.
2. Promises 15-17 points and no singleton or void.
3. Nothing more to say; denies extra values.

East will start with ♥ AK and give up. There are no more tricks available to the defense. 4 ♠ should make five at all the tables. Please note that since East has ♥ AK, South's ♥ Q is safe from attack, giving declarer the same number of tricks in 3 NT.

At matchpoint scoring, that would have been an important consideration for South to pass 3 NT instead of converting it to 4 ♠. She should definitely choose that option if her hearts were ♥ QJ5. Partner promised 15-17 high card points, which gives NS a total of 27-29. When that happens, the opponents win the same two or three tricks in 3 NT as in 4 ♠ but 3 NT making the same number of tricks scores a lot better.