

WARWICK BRIDGE CLUB

Dealer: E Vul: E/W

	NORTH	
	S. 2	
	H. Q3	
	D. KJ975	
	C. A9863	
WEST		EAST
S. K754		S. Q963
H. 86		H. KJ109754
D. 10864		D. 2
C. 754		C. 10
	SOUTH	
	S. AJ108	
	H. A2	
	D. AQ3	
	C. KQJ2	

Come along to the Bridge Stand at the Seniors' Expo at the Senior Citizens Centre on Thursday, 24th August. The game will be demonstrated and your questions will be answered.

On Monday, we welcomed back Anne Wedgwood after a lengthy absence. Her second place showed that she has lost none of her skill.

Today, meet the wreckers of the bridge world: the pre-emptive bidders. These are the players who, when they have a long suit and a hand of slightly less than average strength, will make an opening bid at a high level in order to disrupt their opponents' bidding systems. Today's board (No. 6 from last Monday) is an example. East opened the bidding with 3H, which promised to make nine tricks with hearts as trumps or not to lose too many tricks.

After this bid, South has a difficult decision to make. Much of South's bidding room has been taken. 3NT is a guess while doubling 3H will force partner to bid at the four or even five level. There is little room for North and South to exchange information about their hands. If South does bid 3NT it may be up to North to ask for Aces and to take the partnership to a slam (a promise of 12 tricks) in clubs, diamonds or no trumps.

Three pairs played 3NT by South all making at least twelve tricks. The lead of a heart suggested that East had pre-empted in hearts, frustrating North/South's slam ambitions. Three other pairs chose the lower scoring 5D, which always made at least twelve tricks without any trouble. Some will quibble that the choice of 3H does not fulfil all the requirements of a sound pre-emptive bid, but it kept North/South out of slam on this occasion.

Results for the period ending 14/08/17:

Friday, 11th August (5-table Mitchell):

N/S T. Hinde R. Mobbs (60.0%) 1; J. Rose D. Moran (53.8%) 2; P. Porter A. Gibson (52.1%) 3.

E/W N. Collins M. Simpson (61.3%) 1; J. Mobbs J. McLellan (55.4%) 2; B. Reid J. McKeen (49.2%) 3.

Monday, 14/08/17 (7 & ½-table Mitchell):

N/S G. Embery T. Embery (54.8%) 1; M. Simpson A. Wedgwood (53.3%) 2; N. Collins D. Moran (52.7%) 3

E/W N. McGinness J. McLellan (59.4%) 1; J. Mobbs P. Kelly (53.7%) 2; A. Macdonald F. Wells (50.3%) 3.