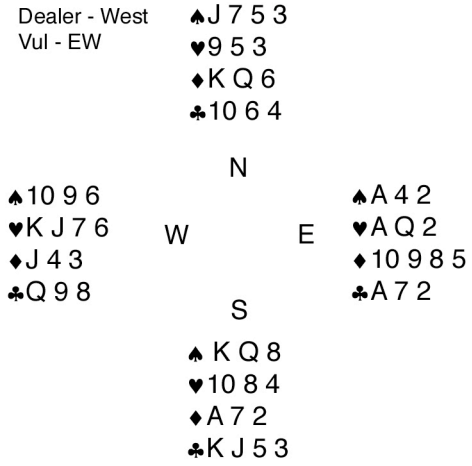
Margaret River Bridge #080220c08
by Bruce Darby

When the points are evenly distributed, people often end up in a 1NT. This is usually very hard to make since you do not have enough controls to stop the opposition from making their tricks.



Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
P	1D	X	1H
1S	1NT	all pass	

East shows an opening hand, but no 5 card major. South doubles to show the same type of hand. West responds 1H indicating that they have four hearts. North responds 1S to indicate they have four spades. With no fit in hearts and no other suit to call, East bids 1NT to keep the bidding alive. South is in a similar position and passes, as does everyone else.

As the cards lie, East should not make this contract, but it does require good defence since, given the chance, East can make seven tricks. If you were South, what would you lead?

I would lead the King of Spades, followed the Queen and then a small spade. East should duck the first two leads, trying to prevent communication between the NS hands. Once East wins, they will most probably play out the four heart winners. On the fourth heart, North has the opportunity use their discard as a hint to their partner as to what they want lead back. In the most simplistic case, if they discard a club, then this implies they are protecting their diamonds so partner might lead a diamond when they get the chance. There are many very sophisticated discard systems that send clear signals to your partner and you should try to develop a system to send signals to each other.

After taking the fourth heart, what should North lead? Unfortunately they don't have much choice and would most probably lead a diamond, hoping that the opposition might make an error with the clubs.

With good defence, this contract cannot make, so you must at all times try to minimise the damage and not go off more than you have to.

We are having good turnouts lately, allowing competition to be played on Friday as well as Monday. On Friday, the winners were Wayne and Heather Cubbitt (from Geraldton), handicap was won by Dianne and Roger Last. On Monday, winners were Steve Forward and Michael O'Hara, hanciap was won by Jerry and Colleen Linsten. To find out more about local bridge, including lessons, go to our website at http://www.holidaymargaretriver.com.au/bridge.

©Bruce Darby, Margaret River Bridge Club, 2007