# Summer Instant Matchpoint Game 

July 10, 2023 Monday afternoon - Set OS2307901
Analysis by Rob Barrington and Gavin Wolpert
INSTANT MATCHPOINT GAME
Rob Barrington is a bridge teacher who has built a following online. His YouTube channel, TheBridgeTeacher, has 13,000 subscribers and over 3 million views. He hosts a weekly lesson with Wolpert.

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Board: 3 *KQ109764
Dealer: S ४ 86
Vul: E-W * 10

+ 1085



| $\begin{array}{l}\text { Results of } \\ \text { Scores }\end{array}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| MPS |  |
| Moard 3 |  |$]$| 100 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 200 | 99 |
| 100 | 97 |
| -150 | 96 |
| -170 | 95 |
| -500 | 94 |
| -620 | 88 |
| -690 | 82 |
| -800 | 73 |
| -950 | 65 |
| -1370 | 38 |
| -1400 | 11 |
| -1540 | 5 |
| $\ldots \ldots$. | 0 | to guess the final contract. If you are settling for game, 3NT is your best gamble. Yes, you might be off the entire heart suit, but partner is likely to have heart length and all we need to do is get in once and we have enough tricks to make it. If you bid 3NT, you did well but 6 is the winner. Besides, how often do you get to dip into your bidding box on your first call and bid a slam? If they do jump to 6*, South could consider doubling with the $V$ A $K$ on lead but if the opponents jumped to slam on their first bid, they usually have the goods!


| Board: 4 | A K 10962 | West | North | East | South | Results of Board 4 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: W | $\checkmark 1065$ | Pass | Pass | 1* | 1NT | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: Both- J 7543- AQ- 953-9 | - 72 | 2* 2 - |  | All Pass |  |  | 100 |
|  | * 765 |  |  | $2 \boldsymbol{A}$ by North |  |  |  | 710 | 99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 690 | 98 |
|  |  | The 1NT overcall is automatic here: 15-18 balanced with a stopper in diamonds. Note once again, when |  |  |  | 670 | 95 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 500 | 89 |
|  |  | with a stopper |  | altern | tive, we should resist the | 400 | 86 |
|  | - J92 | overcal | of 2\% | with on | y a five-card suit. After these | 300 | 83 |
|  |  | first tw | bids, | could | d see a number of different | 200 | 74 |
|  | - A Q 1082 | choice | The 2 | raise | a great option for West and | 150 | 68 |
|  |  | this is | were th | e auct | n may end at many tables. | 140 | 67 |
| The Norths who compete will earn the best result for their side. North knows they have around 18-20 points within their partnership and that the opponents have a diamond fit. Playing matchpoints means making these marginal competitive decisions. It's almost never right to let the opponents play in two of a suit they have an eight-card-fit. 2 $\uparrow$ shows five or more cards in the suit and is a clear signoff. This bid wins the hand. You will either play $2 \boldsymbol{A}$ or defeat $3 \leqslant$ defensively (maybe doubled). |  |  |  |  |  | 110 | 59 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 | 44 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 | 36 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -90 | 34 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -100 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -110 | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -120 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -180 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -200 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -300 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -380 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -400 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -500 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | ...... | 0 |




| Board: 8 | - 52 | West | North East | South | Results of Board 8 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: W | - 10765 | Pass | Pass 1* | 1NT | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: None | -108 | Pass | Pass Dbl | Pass |  | 100 |
|  | * QJ943 | Pass | 2\% Pass | Pass | 480 | 99 |
| - 763 | $N \quad$ K 1084 | 2 | All Pass |  | 380 | 98 |
| - KJ 93 | $W^{N}$ E v AQ4 |  |  |  | 200 | 97 |
| $6432$ |  | 2 by |  |  | 150 | 95 |
|  | * A Q J 9 | Many | ay just play 1 | by South on this hand. | 130 | 87 |
|  | $\checkmark 82$ | Other | bles may play | NT doubled. East's double | 120 | 79 |
|  | - A 95 | should | how this 18-19 | type of hand and be penalty | 110 | 76 |
|  | * A875 | in natur | . West would | pull the double with their | 100 | 72 |
|  |  | weake | hands but w | 4 HCP their side has more | 90 | 66 |
| than half th | points ( $4+18=22$ ) | T is lik | y failing, so p | s is the best choice. Now it's | 50 | 59 |
| North to th | rescue with a bette | hoice of | contracts in 2 | West competes to $2 \checkmark$ and | -50 | 51 |
| now it all c | mes down to South | ooice. D | they bid $3 \%$ | ssuming a nine-card club | -90 | 38 |
| fit?) Or do | hey pass? This decision | will de | mine who w | s the board. | -100 | 27 |
|  |  |  |  |  | -110 | 23 |
|  |  |  |  |  | -120 | 16 |
|  |  |  |  |  | -150 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  | ...... | 0 |



| Board: 10 | * J 65 | West | North | East | South | Results of Board 10 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: E | - 10874 |  |  | 1NT | All Pass | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: Both | - K 10 | 1NT by East |  |  |  |  | 100 |
|  | * AK 87 |  |  |  |  | 300 | 99 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ^Q } 1083 \\ & \vee \mathrm{~J} 5 \end{aligned}$ | $N *$ A 74 | The East hand has a classic upgrade to a 1NT |  |  |  | 200 | 95 |
|  | $W \text { E J } 9$ |  |  |  |  | 150 | 91 |
| - Q 8752 | $\begin{array}{ll} S & J 9 \\ \div & 642 \end{array}$ |  |  | opening bid. When you are balanced, with 14 |  | 110 | 90 |
| - J 3 | - K 92 | HCP and a good quality five-card suit, you should |  |  |  | 100 | 72 |
|  | - 92 | South will have two choices of leads here. The |  |  |  | 90 | 54 |
|  | - A 643 | fourth-best $\$ 3$ or the \$10 (top of an interior |  |  |  | -80 | 52 |
|  | - Q 1095 | sequence). The $\$ 10$ is both safer and more effective than leading from $A-x-x-x$. Either lead will produce |  |  |  | -90 | 43 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -110 | 23 |
| seven tricks for $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{S}$ if they are careful about getting their tricks on defense. |  |  |  |  |  | -120 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -130 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -140 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | ...... | 0 |
| Board: 11 | - A J 5 | West | North East |  | South | Results of Board 11 |  |
| Dealer: S | - J 85 |  |  |  | Pass | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: None | - A 104 | Pass | 140 | Pass | $1 *$ |  | 100 |
|  | - K J 109 | Pass | 1NT | All Pass |  | 180 | 99 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { HQ8432 } \\ & \text { Ү Q } 94 \\ & \text { KJ3 } \\ & * 76 \end{aligned}$ | $W_{S}^{N} E$ | 1NT by North |  |  |  | 150 | 97 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 130 | 94 |
|  |  | The b | questi |  |  | 120 | 87 |
|  | * 96 | West choose to do when South responds $1 *$. Will |  |  |  | 110 | 80 |
|  | - 1062 | they overcall 1A? We don't love it. West would be |  |  |  | 100 | 78 |
|  | - Q9765 | overcalling with a bad suit and a bad hand, usually a |  |  |  | 90 | 71 |
|  | - A Q 2 | good time to choose pass instead. West may never have this choice if South decides to respond 1NT |  |  |  | 50 | 64 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -50 | 47 |
| instead of 1 on this hand. With no stoppers in the majors South should bid 1 to allow |  |  |  |  |  | -100 | 26 |
| partner to declare. East will have to decide whether to lead the VA or low. A general |  |  |  |  |  | -110 | 18 |
| rule against notrump: With $A-K-x-x$, lead the ace; with $A-K-x-x-x$, lead fourth best. |  |  |  |  |  | -140 | 11 |
| If E/W can find a spade shift, they can hold declarer to the obvious six tricks: four clubs and two aces. If they do not shift to spades, $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{S}$ can build extra diamond tricks by finessing through West. |  |  |  |  |  | -150 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -170 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -200 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | -470 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | ...... | 0 |


| Board: 12 | * KQ98654 | West North East South | Results of Board 12 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: W | - 93 | 10 3a All Pass | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: N-S | - K Q |  | .... | 100 |
|  | * 92 | 3 A by North | 620 | 99 |
| * A 7 | $N * 103$ |  | 300 | 97 |
| $\text { v K QJ } 1062$ | $W$ E $\vee 874$ | A good example of a vulnerable preemptive bid | 170 | 94 |
| $\text { - J } 85$ <br> * A J | S $\quad$A10432 <br>  $\mathbf{6 5 4}$ | with the North cards. It is right at the upper range of our bid, but the doubleton $\leqslant K Q$ are not quite worth | 150 | 93 |
|  | * J2 | their full value. This bid correctly ends the auction. | 140 | 81 |
|  | - A 5 | West will be tempted to compete to $4 \checkmark$ and will be | 130 | 69 |
|  | - 976 | rewarded if they do as N/S will easily make $3 \boldsymbol{A}$ and | 110 | 68 |
|  | * K Q 10873 | E/W will only go down one in $4 \vee$. | 100 | 65 |
|  |  |  | 50 | 55 |
|  |  |  | -100 | 40 |
|  |  |  | -140 | 29 |
|  |  |  | -170 | 21 |
|  |  |  | -200 | 14 |
|  |  |  | -420 | 7 |
|  |  |  | -450 | 2 |
|  |  |  | $\ldots$ | 0 |





| Board: 19 | * J 1096 |  | West | North | East | South | Results of Board 19 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: S | - A 62 |  |  |  |  | Pass | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: E-W | - K J |  | Pass | 1\% | 19 | Dbl |  | 100 |
|  | * K J 104 |  | Pass | 19 | 20 | 24 | 470 | 99 |
| - 842 | N | * AK | All Pass |  |  |  | 420 | 97 |
| $\vee 74$ | W E | - QJ 10983 | 2A by North |  |  |  | 300 | 95 |
| $\text { + Q } 98$ | S | $\begin{array}{r} 863 \\ +A 6 \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  | 200 | 93 |
|  | - Q 753 |  | Very standard stuff here. N/S shouldn't worry |  |  |  | 180 | 90 |
|  | - K 5 |  | when the hand record says they can make game in |  |  |  | 170 | 57 |
|  | - A 94 |  | spades. This is the contract you want to play, and |  |  |  | 140 | 19 |
|  | +7532 |  | you will tie for top when you take 10 tricks here. Declarer just needs to draw trumps as quickly as |  |  |  | 120 | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 110 | 13 |
| possible and play clubs starting in the South hand towards their jack. They will lose two |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 | 11 |
| spades and a club. |  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -50 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -100 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -110 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -140 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ...... | 0 |




| Board: 23 | ค K3 |  | West | North | East | South | Results of Board 23 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: S | $\checkmark$ AK 10 | 52 |  |  |  | Pass | Scores | MPS |
| Vul: Both | - A 73 |  | Pass | 17 | Dbl | 2 |  | 100 |
|  | * Q 9 |  | Pass | 3 | Pass | 30 | 650 | 98 |
| * 10976 | N | * AJ54 | All Pass |  |  |  | 630 | 95 |
| $\vee 43$ | W E |  | $3 \vee$ by North |  |  |  | 620 | 86 |
| $\begin{array}{r} \text { Q92 } \\ +7532 \end{array}$ | S | $\begin{array}{r} \text { K J } 65 \\ +\quad \text { A J } 106 \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  | 600 | 78 |
| * Q82 |  |  | The auction on this hand will depend greatly on the |  |  |  | 180 | 76 |
| - QJ 98 |  |  | methods available for the N/S pair. If N/S have an |  |  |  | 170 | 74 |
| -1084 |  |  | agreement for a mixed raise (7-9 HCP with four- |  |  |  | 140 | 60 |
| - K84 |  |  | card support) after an opponent's double they will definitely choose that route. If not, South should |  |  |  | 100 | 48 |
|  |  |  | -100 | 26 |
| raise directly and then be prepared to compete to the three level if needed. North |  |  |  |  |  |  | -140 | 3 |
| makes a natural game try and South is very close on this one. The shape, worst-case |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| holding in diamonds and scattered values make this slightly unattractive to accept |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| game with. East has a terrible choice of opening leads after the $3 \checkmark$ call. A singleton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| trump, which is usually a no-no, might be their best option. If East wastes either of their |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| black aces w | without | turing |  |  |  |  | ho | he d | are | find |  |  |








| Board: 30 | - A 10974 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Dealer: E | - K53 |
| Vul: None | - K 9 |
|  | +1094 |
| * K3 2 | N * 8 |
| - A 1084 | N V J97 |
| - Q 82 | W E A 106 |
| * AK5 | S * QJ8732 |
|  | * QJ 65 |
|  | - Q62 |
|  | - J7543 |
|  | - 6 |

and at least one sure entry we are uncomfortable just signing off so we will choose to make a 3NT bid. This may keep the opponents in the dark a little more than a transfer to a minor and some other calls. Expert methods would likely see East transfer to clubs and show spade shortness, ending in 3NT via a different route.


| Results of Board 29 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Scores | MPS |
| $\ldots \ldots$. | 100 |
| 100 | 98 |
| 50 | 96 |
| -50 | 94 |
| -100 | 93 |
| -110 | 92 |
| -130 | 88 |
| -140 | 85 |
| -150 | 80 |
| -180 | 75 |
| -200 | 74 |
| -240 | 73 |
| -300 | 72 |
| -400 | 57 |
| -420 | 42 |
| -430 | 32 |
| -450 | 21 |
| -460 | 15 |
| -480 | 8 |
| -490 | 6 |
| -520 | 2 |
| $\cdots \ldots$. | 0 |






