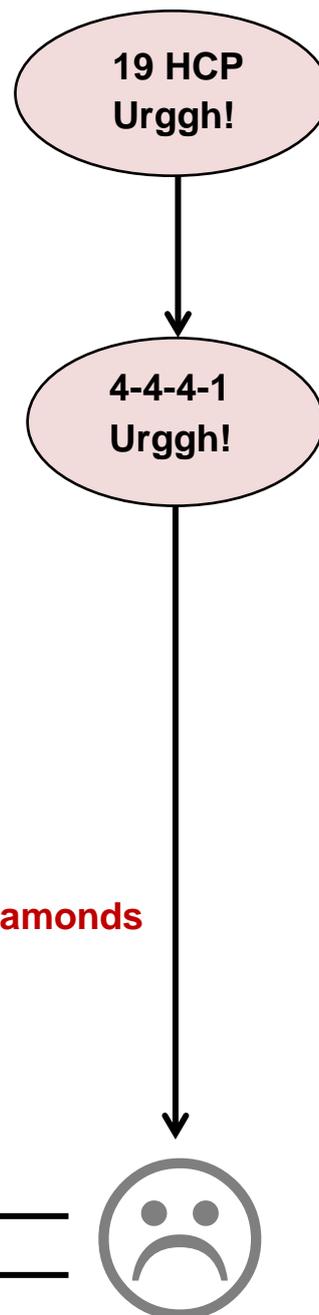
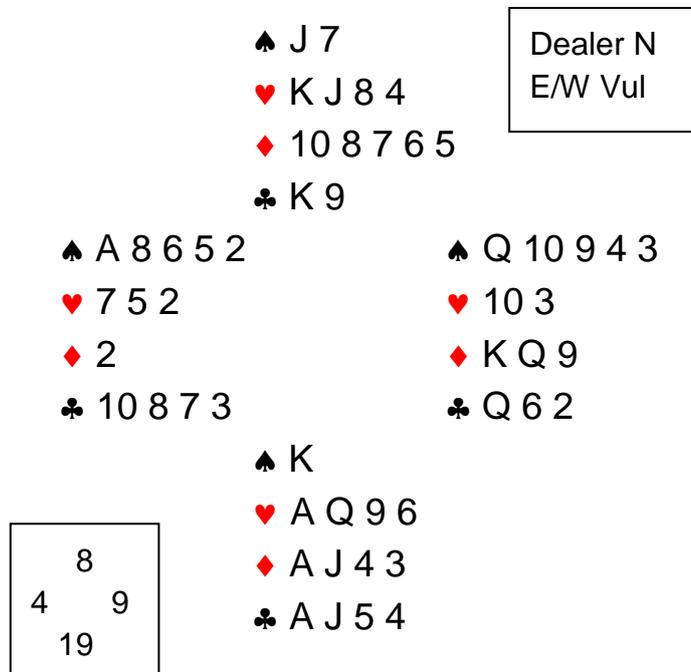


# Losing Trick Count Presentation 4 – 15<sup>th</sup> Mar

## 20/21<sup>st</sup> Feb Hand 9



### Outcomes for 21/22<sup>nd</sup> Feb Hand 9

The hand was played 10 times

#### Double Dummy Predictions

**N/S 11 tricks available in Hearts or 11 tricks available in Diamonds or 8 tricks available in NT**

#### **E/W 7 tricks available Spades**

4 Pair bid 4♥ and made 11 – 83%

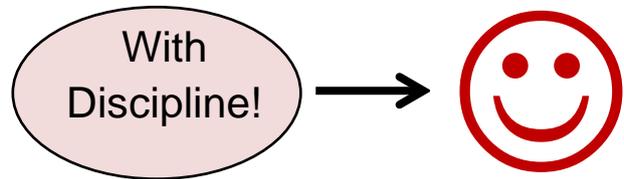
4 Pair bid 4♥ and made 10 – 39%

2 Pairs bid 3♥ and made 11 – 6%



Only 2 Pairs played by North (both bid 10 and made 11) (Tues night players!)

So how should South bid this hand?



## Proposed bidding method:

Opener use classic 4441 style and bid 1♦ (with black suit singleton open the middle of the other three 4-card suits)

With a 4-card Major North bids 1♥. Although this is an 8-loser hand we haven't yet agreed a trump fit and the hand is not good enough to make an initial jump bid. This is a standard one level response showing 6-9 HCP. If a fit is found North expects South to assume he has at least a 9-loser hand.

South has now established there is an 8-card trump fit and jumps to 3♥ because with a 6-loser he expects to make 9 tricks if partner has a 9 loser.

North now knows a trump fit is established. He also knows South has a 6-loser hand because South will have bid to a level based on the expectation of North having a 9-loser. North can now raise to 4♥ because his hand is better than his previously promised 9-loser. He has confidently calculated that his 8-loser and South's 6-loser = 14 and now expects to make 10 tricks

### Disciplined use of the 'Losing Trick Count'

The auction should be straight forward **even if East overcalls and West then raises to 2♠**. N/S must ignore E/W and stick to their own discipline. If E/W do bid a daft 4♠ at vulnerable then Double it and make a better score still.

## The E/W Perspective

In my view, with 9 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit, East has a sensible overcall of 1♠.

West has a nice fit for Spades and with a 10-card trump fit can count his hand as an 8-loser. But with unfavourable vulnerability he would not wish to push on further than 2♠. West should expect his partner to be no better than an 8-loser for his overcall. He can also foresee that N/S have good HCP and a probable Game.

**Are you prepared to bid 4♠ and risk being doubled for a nasty penalty? NO!** - so don't bid 3 either. There is no point pushing N/S into their seemingly obvious Game just for the sake of it. You'd just be helping them out. Bidding to the 2 level you have frustrated their initial attempts and given them enough doubt that they may fall short of it themselves if not careful.