

# CHULA VISTA / LA JOLLA BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

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Set 61907

**Bd: 1** ♠ A 5  
**Dlr: N** ♥ K J 5 2  
**Vul: None** ♦ K 6 2  
 ♣ K Q J 10  
 ♠ Q 8 4 3 ♠ K 9 6  
 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 4 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ Q 3 ♦ 8 5  
 ♣ 6 ♣ A 8 4 3 2  
 ♠ J 10 7 2  
 ♥  
 ♦ A J 10 9 7 4  
 ♣ 9 7 5

**West North East South**  
 1NT Pass 2♠  
 Pass 3♣ Pass 3♦  
**All Pass**  
 After the 1NT opening, from the South point of view, N-S could be cold for 4♠ or 3NT, but in SAYC (and most other bidding systems, too) there's no good way to bid this one. Our own guess would be to sign off in 3♦, and the SAYC way of doing that is to bid 2♠ (which tells Opener to bid 3♣) and then to bid 3♦ (which Opener must pass). That's 10 tricks for Declarer

(11 if the defense fails to get its Club ruff). And, yes, thanks to Opener's Diamond fit and the 2-2 break in the suit, 3NT also makes.

**Bd: 2** ♠ A 8 3  
**Dlr: E** ♥ A 9 3  
**Vul: N-S** ♦ K J 3 2  
 ♣ 10 5 2  
 ♠ 10 9 6 5 2 ♠ K  
 ♥ 6 2 ♥ K Q 10 8 5 4  
 ♦ A 8 4 ♦ 10 9  
 ♣ A K 7 ♣ Q 9 8 6  
 ♠ Q J 7 4  
 ♥ J 7  
 ♦ Q 7 6 5  
 ♣ J 4 3

**West North East South**  
 2♥ All Pass  
 Adherents of the Rule of 20 might look at the East hand and say "10 HCP plus 10 cards in the two longest suits comes to 20". That's irrefutable, but getting up to 20 does not always an opening bid make. East's hand has the glaring defect of the singleton ♠K, and, although the Rule of 20 is an excellent guideline, it needs to be tempered with common sense. So, East opens 2♥ instead and that is where the auction ends.

**The Play in 2♥:** Declarer must lose the ♠A, ♥A and a Diamond for sure. Additionally, he might lose a Club and a second Heart. Luck is with Declarer when the Clubs are 3-3, so goodbye Club loser. As for the Hearts, the percentage play is to finesse against the ♥J. That's not the winner on the actual deal, so 9 tricks is the final result.

**Bd: 3** ♠ 10 9 7 5  
**Dlr: S** ♥ 10 8 7  
**Vul: E-W** ♦ J 10 5  
 ♣ Q 8 3  
 ♠ J 8 4 ♠ A K Q 3  
 ♥ 9 5 4 ♥ Q 3  
 ♦ A 8 7 6 2 ♦ 4 3  
 ♣ J 2 ♣ A 9 7 6 5  
 ♠ 6 2  
 ♥ A K J 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 9  
 ♣ K 10 4

**West North East South**  
 1NT  
**All Pass**  
 Against 1NT the defense can take 4 Spades and the minor suit Aces, but that's it, so 7 tricks for Declarer. On this occasion, South's decision to open 1NT with a 5-card major may work out badly, as her side can make 8 or 9 tricks in Hearts, but it's possible that East might save the day for N-S by competing with 2♣. Now, South can show her Hearts, and if East persists with 2♣ then North might

venture a "matchpoint double", down one for the magic +200.

**Bd: 4** ♠ Q 9  
**Dlr: W** ♥ A J 2  
**Vul: Both** ♦ A 8  
 ♣ A K 8 5 4 3  
 ♠ A ♠ K 10 4  
 ♥ 10 8 7 6 ♥ 9 5 4  
 ♦ K J 9 5 4 ♦ Q 10 7 3  
 ♣ Q 10 6 ♣ J 9 2  
 ♠ J 8 7 6 5 3 2  
 ♥ K Q 3  
 ♦ 6 2  
 ♣ 7

**West North East South**  
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1♠  
 Dbl 2NT Pass 4♠  
**All Pass**  
 With extra values and a 6-card suit, North no doubt considered rebidding 3♣, but she reckoned that her hand was a bit too good and that 2NT was more descriptive. Against 4♠, West leads a Heart and the only suspense in the play is whether Declarer loses two or three trump tricks. Clearly, if trumps are 2-2, there will be just two trump losers (no matter how Declarer

plays the suit), and if they are 4-0 there will always be 3 trump losers. So, the question is "What trump play best handles the 3-1 breaks?" The answer may not be obvious but the percentage play is to lead low towards Dummy, planning to finesse the Nine if West plays the Four. But that becomes academic when West pops up with the Ace. Now it's just two trump losers and +650 for Declarer.

**Bd: 5** ♠ 9 6 5 2  
**Dlr: N** ♥ Q 10 7  
**Vul: N-S** ♦ 9 6  
 ♣ J 7 3 2  
 ♠ A J ♠ 10 7 4 3  
 ♥ A J 9 8 3 2 ♥ 6 5 4  
 ♦ A 3 ♦ J 10 8 7  
 ♣ 10 6 5 ♣ 9 4  
 ♠ K Q 8  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ K Q 5 4 2  
 ♣ A K Q 8

**West North East South**  
 Pass Pass Pass 2♠  
 Pass 2♥ Pass 2NT  
 Pass 3♣ Pass 3♦  
 Pass 3NT All Pass  
 South's 2♠ opening followed by the 2NT rebid showed a balanced 22-24 HCP's. Balanced? Well, not exactly in this case, but that sequence does seem to be the practical solution for this difficult hand.  
**The Play in 3NT:** This won't be much fun for Declarer. West leads a Heart won by the King, Club to the Jack,

Diamond to the King and Ace, ♥A, low Heart, and it's down two.

**Bd: 6** ♠ K 10 5 4  
**Dlr: E** ♥ A K Q J  
**Vul: E-W** ♦ 9  
 ♣ A Q 4 2  
 ♠ Q J 7 6 ♠ 8  
 ♥ 9 5 4 ♥ 7 6 3  
 ♦ K Q 7 5 ♦ J 6 4 3  
 ♣ K 8 ♣ J 10 9 5 3  
 ♠ A 9 3 2  
 ♥ 10 8 2  
 ♦ A 10 8 2  
 ♣ 7 6

**West North East South**  
 1♦ Dbl Pass 1♠  
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠  
**All Pass**  
 West doesn't have a genuine opening bid, but in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat, with a suit he wants led, he stretches a little to open 1♦. What does North's 3♠ show? With a minimum hand, North can pass 1♠, with some extras he can try 2♠, so when she bids 3♠ she must have *substantial* extras. In 4♠ North can make 11 tricks if she guesses the

Spades correctly (playing the Ace first), 10 tricks otherwise.

**Bd: 7** ♠ K 8 5  
**Dlr: S** ♥ 8 6 3 2  
**Vul: Both** ♦ A 2  
 ♣ A Q 6 5  
 ♠ 10 9 7 2 ♠ Q 4 3  
 ♥ A K J ♥ Q 10 7 4  
 ♦ K 9 4 ♦ Q 8 7 3  
 ♣ J 9 7 ♣ K 10  
 ♠ A J 6  
 ♥ 9 5  
 ♦ J 10 6 5  
 ♣ 8 4 3 2

**West Watson East Holmes**  
 1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass  
 1♠ Pass 1NT All Pass  
 Against 1NT, what would Sherlock Holmes lead from the South hand? Certainly not the unbid Heart suit, here's why. Holmes would deduce that North has a decent hand (otherwise E-W would still be bidding), and he'll conclude that North does not have 5 Hearts, due to the failure to overcall 1♥. He'll then deduce that West has exactly 3

Hearts! Yes, the bidding says that West cannot have 4 and that North and East cannot have 5, so they must be 3-4-4 around the table. So, it's elementary that West is 4=3=1=5 or 4=3=2=4 or 4=3=3=3. Not 4=3=1=5 on second thoughts, that would surely mean that North has the right shape for an initial Takeout Double. West is probably not 4=3=2=4 for the same reason, though this is hardly a sure thing. Fascinating stuff! Holmes leads a Club, confidently expecting Dummy to go down with a 3-card Club suit. "You astonish me, Holmes!" says Dr Watson as the defense collects 3 Clubs, 3 Spades and a Diamond for down one.

**Bd: 8** ♠ A K 6 5 3  
**Dlr: W** ♥ K 3  
**Vul: None** ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ 9 6 5 4  
 ♠ 10 ♠ Q J 9 8 2  
 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♥ A J  
 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♦ 7 6 2  
 ♣ Q J 8 7 ♣ K 10 2  
 ♠ 7 4  
 ♥ 8 7 6 4 2  
 ♦ A K 5 3  
 ♣ A 3

**West Watson East Holmes**  
 Pass Pass 1♠ Pass  
 1NT All Pass  
 Against 1NT the defense has 5 top tricks but no more. Declarer and Dummy have every conceivable intermediate card and, with the ♥K onside and doubleton, all roads lead to exactly 8 tricks for Declarer. Should Holmes balance when 1NT comes back to him? That would be dangerous! North must have at least 4 Spades and West is in the overruffing position. It looks likely to

be a deal with no 8-card fit on either side. So, Holmes passes, and Watson is astonished once more when, looking at the Traveler, he sees a whole bunch of -300 scores for N-S in 2♥ doubled.

<b>Bd: 9</b>	♠ K Q 6 5	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<b>Dir: N</b>	♥ J 7 6		<b>Pass</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>1♥</b>
<b>Vul: E-W</b>	♦ Q J 7 2	<b>Pass</b>	<b>2♥</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>4♥</b>
	♣ 10 9	<b>All Pass</b>			
♠ J 3	♠ A 10 9 4 2	After South opens 1♥, should North show her Spades or should she raise Partner's Hearts? The old adage of "Support with support" offers excellent advice here, and we cannot see a good reason for North to investigate a 4-4 Spade fit when there is a perfectly good 5-3 Heart fit available. Showing support early often avoids problems later in the auction.			
♥ Q 10	♥ 4 2				
♦ A 6 5	♦ 9 8 4 3				
♣ Q 8 6 4 3 2	♣ 7 5				
	♠ 8 7				
	♥ A K 9 8 5 3				
	♦ K 10				
	♣ A K J				

**The Play in 4♥:** We studied this one for quite a while, in search of traps for the unwary or subtle nuances in the play. But there aren't any! West leads a card, Declarer draws trumps (no reason not to play for the drop) and the defense scores two Aces in our Flattest Board of the Week.

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<b>Bd: 10</b>	♠ 7 5 3 2	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<b>Dir: E</b>	♥ Q 7 6 4 3			<b>1♣</b>	<b>1♦</b>
<b>Vul: Both</b>	♦ 10 9	<b>Dbl</b>	<b>1♥</b>	<b>2♣</b>	<b>All Pass</b>
	♣ A J	In the modern style, West's Negative Double of 1♦ shows <i>both</i> majors (but not so at the two-level). East's 2♣ rebid does not work out well (it looks like down one), and he would have done better, at least on this particular layout to have rebid 1NT (7 tricks in all probability). But the rebid which hits the jackpot for E-W is 1♠, that 4-3 Spade fit might make as many as 9 tricks! However, on a luckier day for East, his actual 2♣ rebid will work out just fine, he won't always find Partner with a singleton.			
♠ K J 8 4	♠ A Q 6				
♥ A J 10 5	♥ K 9				
♦ J 4 3 2	♦ 8 6				
♣ 6	♣ K 10 8 5 3 2				
	♠ 10 9				
	♥ 8 2				
	♦ A K Q 7 5				
	♣ Q 9 7 4				

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