

# SUPERIOR SEX

## Part 3

The second session of the battle of the sexes continues, Wally being the story teller.

### BOARD 15 DLR S NS VUL

	♠ Q 6	
	♥ A 10 9 3	
	♦ A 10 4 2	
	♣ A 4 3	
♠ 8		♠ 10 9 5 3 2
♥ K Q 5		♥ J 8 2
♦ Q J 6 5		♦ 8 7 3
♣ Q J 10 7 5		♣ 6 2
	♠ A K J 7 4	
	♥ 7 6 4	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ K 9 8	

Simon opened 1S, West overcalled 2C, and Wally bid 3C. The boys ALSO made a lot of use of cue bids in opponents' suits. In this situation, Wally's cue bid was looking for some sort of club stop, OR another suit, OR a spade rebid from Simon. Simon, having a club stop, bid 3NT and Wally was quite happy with that.

Predictably, West led the queen of clubs (look what happens if West leads 'fourth highest!!'), Simon won in hand and immediately played king of diamonds followed by the nine, intending to duck it round. There was no hurry to start on spades, he thought, maybe he might get an extra diamond trick at the end if the opponents discarded badly. However, West put in the jack, so Simon won the ace. NOW he ran the spades and West began to squirm.

Simon knew there MUST be a way to make an overtrick, but he was quite incapable of working out just what who had to have and how he himself needed to play. He also noted the bad spade break and eventually just cashed up his nine tricks.

At least bidding and making game was going to score a reasonable number of match points, and he was quite right, but ONLY 11/20.

No, not because others had made an overtrick, because SOME others, oddly enough more than just a FEW pairs, had ended up in FOUR SPADES, as indeed had happened against the girls.

As Vera related it, after West's 2C overcall North had simply bid 2D and South had rebid 2S. North had run out of ideas and just bid 4S. Vera of course was delighted with the turn of events, but the strange thing was that DESPITE the 5-1 break in the trump suit, declarer had an EASY path to ten tricks: after seeing the bad trump break, declarer simply cashed up two clubs, two diamonds and the ace of hearts and then ruffed a diamond with the seven of spades. It mattered not whether East followed suit or not. Even if East had only two diamonds, with East to play BEFORE declarer, declarer could always make the seven of trumps 'en passant', as they say in Chess terms. And there was Simon happily taking his NINE tricks in No Trumps BECAUSE he saw that the spades were breaking badly!

Amazing what you can do when you have a trump suit even WHEN they break badly!

## BOARD 18 DLR E NS VUL

	♠ K 9 5	
	♥ 8 7 4	
	♦ J 10	
	♣ A 10 6 4 3	
♠ J 8 6 3		♠ 7 2
♥ 10 9 2		♥ K 6 3
♦ Q 6 3		♦ A K 5 4
♣ K J 5		♣ Q 9 8 7
	♠ A Q 10 4	
	♥ A Q J 5	
	♦ 9 8 7 2	
	♣ 2	

Vera was dealer and opened 1C as East. They play SIMPLE so ALWAYS open with a suit, and with more than one four card suit, their LOWEST. South DOUBLED and Dolly, as per system, bid 1S. North didn't seem to know what to do and PASSED. She COULD, and SHOULD, have bid 1NT because she DID have a spade AND club stop, but without a heart or diamond stop she wasn't so sure. VERA now bid 1NT and everyone passed.

South led the nine of diamonds and Vera won her king. Now she played a club to the king, won by North who lamely returned the jack of diamonds.

When the jack of clubs disclosed the lie of the club suit, Vera was able to take two more club tricks via the finesse while South carelessly discarded a diamond. Now Vera cashed her fourth diamond and South once more had a discard problem, choosing to let go another spade and to keep her hearts. But Vera, having already taken seven tricks, now led a spade and eventually South had to lead a heart round to her king for eight tricks and 120 to EW.

That SHOULD have been a top, but was only worth 18/20 thanks to ONE NS pair going three down in 1NT!

"Did you hear what happened to Joe and Eddie on that hand?" Simon asked later, and assuming that they had not when neither of the girls said anything, continued, "East opened 1C, goodness knows WHY seeing they were playing ACOL, and when Eddie doubled, West bid 1NT. Who CARES about mentioning the spades, she figured. When everyone passed Joe led the eight of hearts, natural enough since Eddie had doubled one club. This ran to Eddie's jack and he tried the four of spades. Joe did not feel like parting with his king so he inserted the NINE and it HELD! Another heart and another spade, this time to Joe's king, and yet another heart followed. Eddie now cashed his last heart and two more spades. That was a total of NINE tricks when they had to make the ace of clubs as well. THREE down while YOU made an overtrick, Vera. Is there perhaps a moral to that story?"

"No doubt there is, Simon, but what did YOU do on it?"

"East opened 1NT like any sensible Acol player would. I bid 2D which we play the same as YOU: extended Landy, for the MAJORS. Wally bid 2H and that's where he played it! East cashed two diamonds but then switched to a spade, 'through strength', but unfortunately that played right into Wally's hands. He won the king when poor West had to put up the jack, led a heart to the jack, club to the ace, another heart and when THEY broke he gave up a diamond and claimed the rest, making FOUR! Nothing like playing in a 4-3 fit, you know!"

Despite all this brilliance on their parts, both pairs had to settle for 18/20 match points when there was the usual aberrant 200 on both sides of the ledger.

## BOARD 20 DLR W ALL VUL

	♠ 10 5	
	♥ Q J 9 7 3	
	♦ Q 8	
	♣ K 8 7 5	
♠ A 4		♠ K Q J 9 6
♥ K 8 5 4		♥ 10
♦ J 10 9 4		♦ K 6 5 3
♣ J 9 6		♣ 10 3 2
	♠ 8 7 3 2	
	♥ A 6 2	
	♦ A 7 2	
	♣ A Q 4	

After two passes, Vera opened 1S. She knew she was somewhat light on points but, third in hand, she figured little harm would come from it and she DID have a pretty good spade suit. South seemed a bit put aback, but passed, and Dolly bid 1NT. Vera wasn't going to back out just because she had a light opener. With a singleton heart and four diamonds, she rebid 2D, which showed FIVE+ spades and four+ diamonds. Dolly considered reverting back to spades because of the value of the majors, but because they make a point of playing in their 4-4 minor in preference to a 5-2 major, passed.

South knew that such an auction called for a TRUMP lead, and led the TWO. This in fact is a VERY reasonable lead, but it worked badly for the defence. North played the queen, won by Vera's king and Vera now continued diamonds, South winning the ace and exiting in diamonds. She wasn't going to give anything away by switching to a CLUB because she was quite convinced that Vera had the king! Unfortunatley for her, Vera now cashed up all her spades, discarding clubs from dummy, and then led the ten of hearts TOWARDS the king. ALL south could make was the ace of hearts, plus one club at the very end.

Vera had made FOUR. Poor South had been well and truly fixed by Vera's light opener and her OWN good play. She deserved better, thought Vera, but never mind, we're not here to feel sorry for our opponents, we're here to score match points!

Simon and Wally had a totally different result. After THREE passes Simon opened 1NT and Wally removed to 2H, but East NOW came to life with 2S.

Simon, having four small spades and three hearts in support of Wally's five card suit, AND an absolute maximum, knew they had no 'wasted' values and had no difficulty competing with 3H. NORMALLY, he would not even dream of bidding on after partner had made a 'weakness' takeout of his 1NT, but there are times when a man must do what a man must do, as they say. This was one of them.

East started with the king of spades and continued, West winning and switching to the jack of diamonds. This was good defence but despite having four trumps, West was able to do no more than make his king, and Wally made his contract.

Yes, the usual story, SOMEONE had made FOUR and someone else played in 1NT by South and made THREE, but still, 15/20 match points for them.

## BOARD 26 DLR E ALL VUL

♠ A J 4		
♥ A 10 8 2		
♦ Q 9 6		
♣ 4 3 2		
♠ K 8 5		♠ Q 10 3 2
♥ J 4 3		♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A 7 4 2		♦ J 5
♣ K 9 7		♣ A Q 8
	♠ 9 7 6	
	♥ 7 6	
	♦ K 10 8 3	
	♣ J 10 6 5	

East, declarer, has a perfectly normal 1NT opening playing Acol, but Vera had to open 1H playing SIMPLE. Dolly had a choice of bids: 2D or 2NT. She chose 2NT which she felt described her hand pretty well exactly: 11 or 12 HCP and no suit she wanted to bid, but a balanced hand. With 14 HCP, Vera knew that added up to game, and Dolly having DENIED a four card spade suit, saw no reason to mention her spades and raised straight to 3NT.

North decided that he wasn't going to pay any attention to the bidding, and led his fourth heart. In any case, he felt his only OTHER alternative was a spade, but from THAT holding, even with neither opponent having bid them, the spade lead did not seem very attractive. As it turned out, the HEART lead certainly wasn't! Dolly won in hand and tried a spade, inserting the ten, which HELD! Another spade to the king and North's ace, and now a further wrong choice by North. Seeing AQx of clubs in dummy, North switched to that suit, but Dolly won the ace in dummy (just to put the defence off further if she could), and now played the king of hearts. North won and, sure enough, persisted with another club. Dolly was going to finesse the heart anyway, but it was now quite safe to do so since diamonds had still not been led. She led a heart to the nine, which held, and when the jack of spades dropped, ended up making ten tricks and scoring 18/20 match points along with two others.

What a difference compared to the result at Simon and Wally's table where EAST opened 1NT and played in 3NT. Simon started with HIS 'fourth highest of longest and strongest' and this time it WAS right! Diamonds were cleared and despite the fact that declarer had enough sense to duck the first two rounds of diamonds, he was reluctant to finesse the hearts into the South hand, the one which clearly had the last diamond. Playing, and hoping, for hearts to fall 3-3, he ended up one down. Some others had even managed to go TWO down, no doubt letting South in to make his diamonds, but just one down was still 14/20 match points for the boys.

## SESSION RESULT

THIS time, the girls did MUCH better than the boys, despite the zero on the first board. They scored a superb 64.92% compared to the boys' 57.56%, which was nevertheless a good score as well. Again, they had all learned new things, especially the need to compete on the right hands, and the usefulness of FIT, and the need for a system to bid over opponents' No Trump openings.