

### Board 24: None Vul, West Deals

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

On this hand, the EW pair of The Bridge Bears bid to 6D after Sally Wang, sitting West, opened 1D. The slam duly made with the opening lead of ♥K. Poly's Sarker chose to open 1S instead and after NS overcalled and supported hearts, there was no room left to find their diamond fit. 3NT+1 was the final contract. This board could have thus swung either way for both teams.

Being Vul vs NV, what would you bid with the following hand after Pass : (1H) : ?

♠ A8754 ♥ 92 ♦ Q32 ♣ KJ2

### Board 6: EW Vul, East Deals

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

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Ze Ying	NTU Staff	Choo Wai	NTU Staff
Pass	1H	Pass	2H
Pass	Pass	2S	X
3C	Pass	Pass	3H
All Pass			

Without any intermediate cards, I passed initially but was then faced with the dilemma to balance or not to. Defense against 2H did not appear very promising, and partner must have some points despite having passed (since opponents were not trying for game). I thus bid 2S and was duly punished with a double! Rescue came in the form of our optimal 9-card club fit, and opponents were pushed subsequently to 3H-2 with two ruffs in our perfect defense.

What are the learning points? Though not a classic overcall, many experts nowadays would overcall 1S immediately without batting an eyelid; the rationale being that it's less risky to show what you have and fight for a part-score at 1-level instead of being the same dilemma of balancing at a higher level.

When questioned by partner why he did not elect to pass quietly and defend 2S, North joked that he would never give up this rare chance of catching Choo Wai in this seemingly lethal trap! Would my partner correct to 3C if North passed? Would you? (Ed's Note: Yes, I would, partner.)

### Board 12: NS Vul, West Deals

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Choo Wai	NTU Staff	Ze Ying	NTU Staff
1NT	Pass	2C	2S
Pass	Pass	X	All Pass

There is no question on overcalling if NS are non-vulnerable, but would you overcall at unfavourable vulnerability after a Stayman response? 2SX-3 yielded +800 for The Bridge Bears, but was that enough?

At the other table, NTU Staff did not find the club slam and played 3NT+3. Can you reach this slam without interference? If you can, proceed to discuss how to reach 6C after interference.

Being NV vs Vul, what would you bid with the following hand after (Pass) : 1D : (4S) : ?

♠ K ♥ K107 ♦ KQ853 ♣ QJ97

### Board 16: EW Vul, West Deals

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
NTU Staff	Ze Ying	NTU Staff	Choo Wai
Pass	1D	4S	X
All Pass			

South could bid 5D, double, or pass? I chose to double as I have a certain loser in ♠K, wasting 3 HCPs, and partner could not be missing more than an ace or king outside spades to make 5D. East eventually chose to finesse for ♠K, thus 4SX-1. This has less likelihood of succeeding as 1-1 break is more likely than 2-0, especially after my double.

Our teammates bid only 3S in view of the vulnerability and allowed the opponents to reach the doomed contract of 5D-1.

There were several boards which could have swung wither way in this match, but lady luck stuck on with The Bridge Bears on these boards in their eventual 76-60 IMP win over NTU Staff.