

How do you score exactly one thousand aggregate points at rubber bridge?

The “usual” ways to record 1,000 are by defeating a redoubled contract by two tricks vulnerable or three tricks non-vulnerable. You can also make 3NT redoubled vulnerable, or an overtrick in 3NT redoubled non-vulnerable, and the same goes for contracts of five of a minor. Five of a major redoubled non-vulnerable making exactly is also worth 1000.

More esoterically, you can obtain a penalty of 1100 with an opponent having 100 for honours. You can also make 3NT doubled with two overtricks vulnerable for 1150, with an opponent having (a) 150 for honours and (b) a disinclination to make the best use of them in defence.

Finally, you can do what the intrepid proprietor of TGRs did in the high-stake game the other day. Both sides vulnerable, dealer South.

	♠J		
	♥10764		
	♦1082		
	♣AQJ32		
♠AQ96432		♠1075	
♥A		♥9832	
♦963		♦AKQ74	
♣54		♣8	
	♠K8		
	♥KQJ5		
	♦J2		
	♣K10976		
West	North	East	South
John	David	Robert	Charles
Perris	Burn	Sheehan	Wigoder
			1NT (1)
2♠	3♣ (2)	4♠	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Ostensibly 15-17, but as the CEO of a major telecommunications company Charles is keen to upgrade not only his customers’ levels of service but his own cards. (2) Natural and not forcing.

It’s possible, I suppose, that North would produce something like:

♠5 ♥A64 ♦1082 ♣A85432

for his bid of three clubs. In that case, if West were to lead a spade away from his ace, four no trumps would make an overtrick; if he guessed to try to put partner in with a heart and not a diamond, four no trumps would still make. The reality was rather different. John Perris did very well to lead a diamond from the West hand, and Robert Sheehan cashed five rounds of the suit before switching to a spade. He unblocked the ten on the second round of spades, and West claimed the remainder of the tricks for ten down and 1,000 to East-West.

The intrepid proprietor claimed that this result was above par for his side, since East-West can make six spades for 1430 while five clubs doubled would cost 1100 on best defence. But no one was listening – they were all laughing too hard.