



# Trumps Update November 2021

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## Avoiding the cover charge by Derrick Browne

West opens with a weak 2♠; what action should North take?

NORTH

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

SOUTH

♠ A 9  
♥ J 7 3  
♦ A 7 5 4 3  
♣ A 5 3

With a sound opening hand and shortage in the enemy suit, North is too good to pass. With length in the unbid suits and in particular four cards in the unbid major, a takeout double is much better than overcalling the 5-card minor.

East raises to 3♠, which is best played as preemptive in nature; in answer to a Weak Two, a bid of 2NT is used as the strong enquiry (the most popular versions being Ogust or Feature Ask), leaving the immediate raise available as a weak shutout bid.

South tries 3NT, despite the fact that the spade position could be a little fragile with only ace-doubleton in the suit.

Everybody passes, and West leads the queen of spades. You hold up the ace because it can't hurt to do so, but of course East signals encouragement and West leads another round, driving out your ♠A while you discard a club from dummy. What is your plan?

If diamonds break normally (2-1), you have nine top tricks. To guard against all three diamonds being in the West hand you bang down the ♦A, preserving the *tenace* (honours with a gap between them, in this case dummy's K-J of diamonds) so that if East were to show out, you could take the marked finesse of the ♦J.

This time, however, it is West who shows out. You can console yourself with the knowledge that there was never any way to trap capture the queen (as East had ♦Q-T-x sitting over dummy's honours), but meanwhile, how should you continue?

Once you lose the lead, the opponents will drown you in a flood of spade tricks. However if you can bring home the heart suit, that could provide you with the four quick tricks you need. How should you tackle the card combination in hearts?

NORTH

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

WEST

♠ Q J 10 7 6 4  
♥ K 8  
♦ -  
♣ J 9 8 7 6

EAST

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

SOUTH

♠ A 9  
♥ J 7 3  
♦ A 7 5 4 3  
♣ A 5 3

Assuming West is a defender who knows to “cover and honour with an honour”, it is wrong to lead the ♥J - West will put the ♥K on it hoping East has the ♥9, which will then be promoted as a winner for the fourth round, and declarer will be a trick short of the contract as the cards lie.

Instead, declarer leads a low heart and finessees to the ♥10, breathing again when the finesse succeeds. Cross back to hand with a club to the ace and again, lead a low heart. This way the ♥K must be played “on air” and is captured by the ♥A. Now lead a low heart from dummy back to the ♥J, before finally crossing back to dummy (via a diamond to the king) to cash the ♥Q for the ninth trick.

Good opponents will cover any honour unwisely led, but a knowledge of card combinations can help you maximise your tricks so you don't pay out too often to these people.



## Photos – Cup day

*Its race time!*



*Photo time!*



### TRUMPS BRIDGE CENTRE

[www.trumps.net.au](http://www.trumps.net.au)

## FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



***Sun 26 December 2021  
to Sun 2 January 2022***

**Red masterpoints** and pre-dealt boards

Face-to-face and online events, plus side-games

Email: [trumps@trumps.net.au](mailto:trumps@trumps.net.au)

Telephone: (02) 9969 5959

*Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA. All players are  
subject to the NSWBA's Disciplinary Regulations*

## XMAS PARTY



**Sunday 5 December. 12.30pm**  
lunch and drink, then  
1.30pm duplicate. \$25/\$35 including bridge.  
Winners on ratings. Booking required.

# Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

You are South with the hand shown. Choose your call then compare with the experts. Standard and Pairs scoring.

On our panel, Derrick Browne and leading world bridge authorities Barry Rigal and Ron Klinger are joined by Nick Fahrer from The Bridge Shop and NSW representatives Tina Zines, Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

South Deals, EW Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			?

♠ J 8 6 5 3 2  
♥ -  
♦ A  
♣ AKQJ 1 0 8

Votes by our panellist

CALL	VOTES
1♠	4
1♣	3

*Probability theory tells us that we have to wait for nearly 1,400 hands to get a 6-6-1-0 pattern, but if a fit with partner is found, wow, the hand is huge. What's the best way of handling these beasts?*

**Browne:** 1♠, the "normal" action, although if opponents preempt 4H, it might have worked better to open 1♣ (then I could bid 4♠, offering partner a choice of suits without increasing the level). The other option of opening with your strongest bid (e.g. a strong 2♣; after all, you could argue this is a 3-loser hand) could give you even less chance of showing your shape in the face of enemy preemption.

**Klinger:** 1♠. No need to pre-empt with a strong hand and we could have 6♠ / 6♣ / 7♠ / 7♣ on. We own the top suit and it is unlikely for E-W to sacrifice at the vulnerability. Not keen on opening 2♣ and bidding 2♣ : 2♦, 2♠ with such weak spades. Highly unlikely that 1♠ will be passed out.

*As the hand has 3 losers, it's also reasonable to open with your strongest game forcing bid, which is 2C for most. But as Nick Fahrer from "The Bridge Shop" says, opening strong two suited hands with 2C can cause later difficulties because the auction can become cramped for space.*

**Fahrer:** 1♠. If forced to open 2♣, I would rebid 3♣ ahead of 2♠. In general, avoid opening 2♣ with a strong 2-suited hand.

**Zines:** 1♠ should be enough to start with. We can still get to 6♣, if that's our spot. Could open 2♣ and show clubs first and then spades, treating it as a 5-6.

*Yes, quite a few panellists consider the clubs strong enough that they should be mentioned first, effectively treating the clubs as longer than the spades. Nick Hughes is one of them:*

**Hughes:** 1♣, then bid spades a few times. This is not a 6-6.

*Nick's life and bridge partner is the same wavelength, as is Barry, our New York correspondent:*

**Giura:** 1♣. I plan to bid spades next time (even at the 4 level).

**Rigal:** 1♣. I'm going to pretend I have a 5-6 pattern. If we have a choice of suits to play slam in I know what I want to be trump and I know what partner should be leading



### Bridge at other venues:

Did you know beside our regular games at Trumps (66 Spit Rd) we also run weekly games at following venues:

#### Social duplicate at RAC, Circular Quay

10.30am Tuesdays

#### Bridge @ The Manly Club

11am Tuesdays

#### Social duplicate at Baytree, Greenwich

2pm Tuesdays

#### Bridge at Manors, 6 Hale Rd

2pm Wednesdays

#### Duplicate at Monash, Ingleside

9.30am Thursdays

#### Bridge @ Mosman Rowers

1pm Thursdays

### Trumps publishing:

Check our full range of books, pamphlets, software and other bridge merchandise.

[www.trumps.net.au/about-trumps/trumps-shop](http://www.trumps.net.au/about-trumps/trumps-shop)

## Lessons & events

#### Beginners' Play lessons

10am Wednesdays from 24 November.

#### Improvers' Bridge lessons

10am Fridays.

#### Xmas Party!

Sunday 5 December. 12.30pm lunch and drink, then 1.30pm duplicate. \$25/\$35 including bridge. Winners on ratings.

#### Red points & more

1.30pm Fridays **or**

7pm Fridays

## Top Rated

	Top rated	Rating
1	Derrick Browne	68.51
2	Alessandro Gado	66.64
3	Kerry Boytell	66.55
4	Eric Lippey	66.49
5	Alex Kemeny	64.73
6	Neil Williams	63.47
7	Barbara Gassmann	62.86
8	Kevin Murray	62.85
9	Rob Holgate	62.35
10	Fay Cooney	62.19
11	Tina Strickland	62.14
12	Peter Fitzmaurice	61.98
13	Marjorie Thomas	61.85
14	Kim Dalling	61.73
15	Tim Trahair	61.73
16	Meg Sharp	61.57
17	Inez Glanger	61.23
18	Tim Rickard	61.16
19	Vivienne McDonald	61.15
20	Cia Benecke	61.07

## Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Sue Craig	57.11	57.85	0.74
2	Bob Fletcher	57.08	57.82	0.74
3	Mary McDonald	51.32	52.05	0.73
4	Meg Sharp	60.86	61.57	0.71
5	John Rendle	55.81	56.48	0.67
6	Olivia Johnson	47.88	48.50	0.62
7	Marika Krupp	58.85	59.44	0.59
8	Barbara Gassmann	62.32	62.86	0.54
9	Jeanette Beaumont	52.30	52.83	0.53
10	Michael Bergheim	57.93	58.46	0.53

(Members with ABF number who have played 13 times in the last six months are rated)



### Newsletter now mainly emailed:

We are now doing more frequent newsletters, but mainly emailed, with a few legacy copies being printed for those who do not have email. We will also do occasional mailed newsletters, e.g. at year end. If anyone is not receiving our monthly emailed updates, we would appreciate being given the person's email address so we can rectify the situation!

### Need Partner?

Almost each month we get few players looking for suitable regular/casual bridge partner. If you are in the similar situation call or email us with your preferred level and session day/time.

### Fill in

Are you available to be called in as a fill-in guest to fill a table? Email or call us with possible days/times/venue(s).



### Online Bridge

**BBO 1pm Wednesdays**

### Funbridge

Search for Trumps under exclusive tournaments.  
Password Trumps



## Masterpoint Promotions (September and October)

Rob Holgate	Life
Alessandro Gado	Bronze National
Heath Henn	National
Christine Ingate	Bronze State
Helen Acton	Bronze State
Emi Kaiwa	State
Timothy Bestelink	State
Vristine Yazdanparast	State
Barbara Tootill	Bronze Regional
Mark Hetherington	Regional
Nick Armitage	Regional
Richard Samuel	Bronze Local
Philip Brown	Graduate

***Congratulations!*** See us when you are at Trumps to collect your promotion certificate and token.

## What to bid?

Choose your call then compare with the experts (published in next month's edition). Standard bidding and Pairs scoring.

**East Deals, NS Vulnerable**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♦	?

♠	9 8 6 4 2
♥	Q J 8 6 3
♦	A K
♣	A

# Timetable

## Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon	9.50* (Int)		
Tues	<i>join other game</i>	1.20*	7pm*
Wed		1.15*	7pm*
Thurs	9.50*	1.20*	
Fri	9.50*	1.20*	7pm*
Sat		1.30	

\*These games start with a short talk.

**Red/gold points** 1.20pm Fridays.

## Supervised

Mon		1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	(lessons)		
Thurs			
Fri	<i>see p5 lessons</i>		
Sat	10am*		

\*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on **p4** for other session time)

We run normal sessions on most public holidays, but there is a special program at year end and Good Friday / Easter.

# Benefits

## Of Trumps membership

- A monthly update of news, views and tips
- Save \$3 on duplicate sessions at and lessons at Trumps
- Reciprocal membership rights at Mosman Rowers Trumps Bridge Group, Bridge @ The Manly Club, Social Bridge, Turramurra, Killara & Narrabeen
- Special events for members
- Members' phone book
- We pay your ABF fees if we are your home club (\$10 extra).

## Rights and duties

- We cater for players of all levels
- Use the suggestion box in the main foyer
- Greet your opponents
- Let us know if you are available as a "fill-in" player, to be called in at the last moment (as our guest) if we are short
- Post mortems should never hold up play
- Support those who support bridge! *Australian Bridge* magazine (also in novice edition) and the Bridge Shop. We recommend: Mosman Rowers, The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth village, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣