



Trumps Update

February 2021

www.trumps.net.au

(02) 9969 5959

trumps@trumps.net.au

www.facebook.com/trumpsbridgecentre

♠ 4 3		♠ K J 10 9									
♥ Q J 10		♥ 7 6 2									
♦ 10 7 5 4 3		♦ A Q									
♣ K J 10		♣ 6 5 4 3									
	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♠ 5 2									
		♥ 9 3									
		♦ K J 9 8 6									
		♣ 9 8 7 2									
		♠ A Q 8 7 6									
		♥ A K 8 5 4									
		♦ 2									
		♣ A Q									

Flair without finesse by Derrick Browne

On the hand at left, South was in 6S and had to find the best line to avoid two losers. Plan your play after West leads the queen of hearts.

There is a sure loser in hearts and declarer also has a potential club loser. Of course if the king of clubs is in the East hand, the club finesse will succeed and the contract can be made. An alternative possibility is to finesse to dummy's diamonds, trying the DQ; if that succeeds, South's CQ could be discarded on the second diamond from dummy.

Lacking any clues from the bidding, it is a guess which of those two finesses to opt for and either would provide a success rate of only 50% (and both fail as the cards lie). How can you improve your chances?

What if you could make an opponent lead into the jaws of one of your A-Q suits? Here is how you would go about trying to achieve that end.

First draw trumps. Next, cash the DA and ruff the DQ. Cash the remaining heart honour, then play the third round of hearts which will lose. If East wins (having started with three hearts), a club from that hand will leave you having to resort to the club finesse after all. But so long as it was West who started with three hearts, the contract must succeed; West will now be stuck on lead and the position will look something like this:

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

If West leads a diamond, declarer will ruff in dummy and discard the CQ from hand, then claim (remember, the hearts in the South hand are winners as there are no others outstanding). West does better to lead a club, hoping partner has the queen (or better still, the ace) but as declarer has both honours, that gives the game away too.

Many a hardened bridge player will tell you that "a peek is worth two finesses", but sometimes by making an opponent lead a suit you avoid the need for any finessing – or, for that matter, any peeking.

Most of our regular sessions are back!

www.trumps.net.au/whats-on/whats-on-full-list

- [Regular Duplicates](#)
- [Supervised Duplicates](#)
- [Red/Gold Point Duplicates](#)
- [Lessons](#)
- [FunBridge game](#)

Lessons & other events:

- **Improvers Play Lessons**
10 am Wednesdays
- **Summer Teams**
10am Sunday 21 February
- **IMPed Pairs Fridays**
(1.30pm and also 7pm) in February.
- **Mixed Pairs**
(Red points at State level)
Fridays (1.30pm and also 7pm) in March.

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

Social duplicate at Baytree, Greenwich

2pm Tuesdays

Supervised duplicate at Monash, Ingleside

9.30am Thursdays

Open duplicate at Mosman Rowers

1pm Thursdays

Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

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

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

West Deals, Nil Vulnerable

♠ Q 8 4 3 2
♥ A J
♦ K 4
♣ Q 8 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♦	3♥	?

CALL	VOTES
Double	4
3♠	4

Browne: Bidding 3S may make it hard to find 3NT; bidding 3NT or making a negative double may make it hard to find a spade game. Given that all actions have downsides, I choose 3S, since that shows the 5+ spades and game values that I have.

Douglas: Double. Don't really want to play in a 5-3 spade fit here with such weak spades so will retain some flexibility.

Fahrre: Double. For takeout. 3S is tempting but the suit isn't up to scratch.

Giura: Double. This shows the black suits; I'll pass next round

Hughes: Double. Not 3S because partner might have to raise with three small or honour-doubleton, which we don't want.

Klinger: 3S. Could be right, could be wrong. 3NT could be right, could be wrong. I'd rather punt on partner having 3+ spades. Will not be happy to hear 4D, but there are always risks in what we do. You will not be better off with a negative double. Now partner figures to bid spades only with four and you will be even less pleased if partner bids 4D.

Rigal: 3S. Doing anything else might miss the 5-3 spade fit but this might get us to a 5-2 spade fit I admit. Equally doubling might result in our having a nasty guess over a 4D response. There is no good answer other than punching RHO, and this is not acceptable in polite society.

Zines: 3S. Close decision between 3NT (it may be now or never) and a forcing 3S on a ghastly suit. I choose the latter, unhappily, planning to pass a 4D rebid.

Masterpoint promotions for January 2021

Megan CORNELIUS

Bronze National

Delores GRAVES

Bronze State

Anthony SMUTS

State

Eric MONTY

Regional

Bob TAGGART

Local

Ann SAYERS

Graduate

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

Professional opinion:

Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have any kind of heart problem?

Bill: No, He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.

(Send a low like or high hate!)

Trumps publishing:

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

www.trumps.net.au/about-trumps/trumps-shop

