



Trumps Update

October 2021

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B-Day Mon 11 Oct

"Bridgedom Day" 11 October – when face-to-face games resume at Trumps and elsewhere – is grand slam for those who have been deprived of bridge, or are tired of being limited to online tourneys.



Join us in person at last! Our regular schedule (including all our normal times) is shown on **p6**.

Testing hand offers multiple choice by Derrick

Your partner opens 1H; decide how you should reply with the following:

NORTH

♠ 10
♥ Q 9 8 6
♦ A Q J 2
♣ K 4 3 2

How can you best describe your hand? You have the fit and values for 4H, but an immediate jump to game by responder is a shut-out, showing a shapely hand with good support but normally under 10 HCP.

A popular convention, at least on the tournament scene, is the "splinter bid" - and it provides a good description of the hand above. A splinter is an unusual or unnecessary jump and shows a good fit with partner, a singleton or void in the bid suit, and game points.

As responder to the opening bid, a double jump-shift is usually used as the splinter. For example after 1H by opener, a response of 1S would be a normal simple shift, while a response of 2S would be a jump-shift, and a response of 3S would be a double jump-shift and therefore splinter, an ideal choice on this hand.

cont....

Knowing where your shortage is helps partner in evaluating. Lots of little cards opposite a singleton means no wastage: those small cards can be ruffed. Axx opposite a singleton means no loser in the suit, whereas KQJ opposite a singleton has one loser still; the KQJ may be wasted.

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| NORTH | |
| ♠ 10 | |
| ♥ Q 9 8 6 | |
| ♦ A Q J 2 | |
| ♣ K 4 3 2 | |
| SOUTH | |
| ♠ K Q 9 | |
| ♥ A K J 10 7 3 | |
| ♦ 3 | |
| ♣ A J 10 | |
| South | North |
| 1H | 3S |
| ? | |

This time the singleton spade doesn't excite South at all. Nonetheless, South is so strong that slam should make anyway - if North has just the DA and something in clubs, slam is a good bet. Thus after Blackwood or some other check on controls, South finishes in 6H.

West leads a trump, and declarer plays a second round of trumps with East showing out. What is the best line to bring home the slam? What is the percentage chance of success?

There is an obvious spade loser so declarer clearly cannot afford to lose a club. The club suit offers a two-way finesse - if you think West has the queen, you could lead the jack planning to run it, or if you think East has the queen, you could cross to dummy then lead a club and finesse to the jack.

In the diamond suit there are also multiple honours, and multiple choices as to how to play them. If you knew West held the diamond king, you could safely finesse to dummy's queen (or jack). If you knew East had the king, you could instead cash the ace, then lead the queen for a ruffing finesse (planning to ruff if East puts up the king, else to discard a club).

Better than gambling on one of these 50% chances is to back a 100% guaranteed winner, as follows. After drawing trumps, cash the ace of diamonds, leaving a position something like this:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| NORTH | |
| ♠ 10 | |
| ♥ Q 6 | |
| ♦ Q J 2 | |
| ♣ K 4 3 2 | |
| SOUTH | |
| ♠ K Q 9 | |
| ♥ A K 7 3 | |
| ♦ — | |
| ♣ A J 10 | |

Now lead the ten of spades from dummy. If East has the SA, your problems are solved immediately - East must take the ace (or never make it) making the KQ of spades into winners for two club discards from dummy.

Say instead that your king of spades loses to West's ace. West has no more hearts left and whichever of the other suits West leads will present you the contract: a club lead solves your problem in that suit; a spade into your Q9 makes both winners, allowing two clubs to be discarded from dummy to avoid a loser there; and a diamond lead will set up at least one of dummy's honours as a winner, on which you can throw the club loser from hand.

Guessing may work in a multiple choice test but it is better to work out the right answer!



Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

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

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

West Deals, Both Vulnerable

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------------|------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | 1C | ? |
| | ♠ J 9 2 | | |
| | ♥ J | | |
| | ♦ A K Q 9 | | |
| | ♣ A K J 7 4 | | |

Votes by our panellist

| CALL | VOTES |
|------|-------|
| Dbl | 3 |
| 1NT | 2 |
| Pass | 1 |

We have 19 point but right hand opponent opens in our best suit. How should we react?

Browne: Double. With 19 HCP, the obvious starting point is a takeout double, despite the flawed shape. If the panellists go down this standard route, they will probably be thinking about what to do over partner's likely 1H reply (probably 1NT, showing a strong "balanced" hand), or over a 1S reply (still perhaps rebid 1NT, for want of a better option).

Yep, a good guideline is "when an opponent opens, all really strong hands unsuitable for a 1NT overcall, should start with a double". Ah, but is this hand perhaps suitable for a 1NT overcall?

Hughes: Double I suppose, then 1NT over 1H by partner, or raise 1S to 2S. I don't mind pass, since West is likely to be short in clubs and will often bid on a sub-minimum, which will be fine for us. If not, 1C will cost a few hundred

Klinger: Double. The normal treatment for 19+ hands. Likely to be followed by a no-trumps bid over 1H / 1S or 2H / 2S. A 4H bid is highly unlikely since partner did not open with a weak two.

Yes, that's the danger of doubling when very short in a suit partner might bid, but as Ron says, with likely very little value in partner's hand, a high jump in hearts is unlikely.

Giura: 1NT - not perfect, but nothing is.

Fahrner: 1NT - there is no good answer to this question but this is the least worst.

Although you wouldn't open this hand 1NT, the singleton heart itself isn't a reason for eschewing a 1NT overcall. The danger is that partner with a garbage hand and 5 hearts may transfer you to 2H.

Zines: Pass looks ok when they are vulnerable. I can come to life after I discover which of the passed hands has something.

Rigal: Pass. I don't see a sensible call here so passing and planning to balance later ... if there is a later.

Along the same line as Nick Hughes, hoping perhaps for a 1H bid from West, passed back to us, or simply to defend 1C and collect 100 for each undertrick. Even +100 beats +90 if we make 1NT.

The hand was played in a Trumps online session in late July. Partner had a 2434 shape with the only honour being the king of hearts. 1NT works well. On perfect defence, South can be held to 7 tricks in 1NT, but if the defence slips, may make 8 or 9. 1H by EW will be one off.



Bridge at other venues:

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

Social duplicate at RAC, Circular Quay

10.30am Tuesdays from **18 Oct**

Bridge @ The Manly Club

11am Tuesdays from **25 Oct**

Top Rated

| | Name | Rating |
|----|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | Derrick Browne | 68.93 |
| 2 | Kerry Boytell | 66.55 |
| 3 | Eric Lippey | 66.47 |
| 4 | Alessandro Gado | 66.43 |
| 5 | Alex Kemeny | 64.49 |
| 6 | Neil Williams | 63.73 |
| 7 | Tina Strickland | 62.9 |
| 8 | Kevin Murray | 62.87 |
| 9 | Rob Holgate | 62.79 |
| 10 | Barbara Gassmann | 62.32 |
| 11 | Fay Cooney | 62.09 |
| 12 | Marjorie Thomas | 61.93 |
| 13 | Cia Benecke | 61.75 |
| 14 | Ceiny Maybury | 61.71 |
| 15 | Kim Dalling | 61.64 |
| 16 | Vivienne McDonald | 61.6 |
| 17 | Tim Trahair | 61.53 |
| 18 | Peter Fitzmaurice | 61.53 |
| 19 | Kevin Ellwood | 61.4 |
| 20 | Sue Robinson | 61.39 |

Sydney North

Interclub Pairs (Online)

Sunday 31 October on **RealBridge**

Let us know if you are interested in representing Trumps.

Trumps publishing:

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

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

Lessons & events

Beginners 7pm Mondays from 18 October **or**

10am Wednesdays from 20 October.

Beginners Card Play & refresher
7pm Thursdays from 21 October.

Improvers Lessons
10am Fridays from 22 October.

Double red points & IMPs
1.30pm Fridays 15 & 22 October
or 7pm Fridays 15 & 22 October
(Play as pair but have a chance to form a team for State teams final)

Most improved Rating

| | Name | Old | New | Gain |
|----|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1 | Eric Lippey | 65.6 | 66.47 | 0.87 |
| 2 | Kerry Boytell | 65.69 | 66.55 | 0.86 |
| 3 | Tony Franklin | 58.95 | 59.74 | 0.79 |
| 4 | Virstine Yazdanparast | 59.75 | 60.42 | 0.67 |
| 5 | Evelyn Ciocco | 52.69 | 53.35 | 0.66 |
| 6 | Margaret Kenny | 56.59 | 57.2 | 0.61 |
| 7 | John Rendle | 55.22 | 55.81 | 0.59 |
| 8 | Merle Payne | 56.82 | 57.4 | 0.58 |
| 9 | Peter Fitzmaurice | 60.96 | 61.53 | 0.57 |
| 10 | Clive Todd | 35.77 | 36.32 | 0.55 |

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

Online Bridge

Currently we are running
online bridge on **BBO**:

10am Tuesdays

7pm Tuesdays

1pm Wednesdays

1pm Thursday 7 Oct only

1pm Saturdays

Funbridge

Search for Trumps under
exclusive tournaments.
Password Trumps



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!

Spring Teams result

1st Helen Lowry, Linda Aubusson, Judy Marks and Julianne Rocks

2nd Mark Guthrie, Julie Guthrie, Sunny Pang, and Margaret Owen

Best Trumps Teams (4th overall)
Ceiny Maybury, Lydia Gibbs, Mary O'Toole and Tina Strickland

What to bid?

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

South Deals, EW Vulnerable

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|------|-------|------|-------|

♠ J 8 6 5 3 2

♥ -

♦ A

♣ AKQJ 10 8

Timetable

Open Duplicates

| | Morning | Afternoon | Night |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| Mon | 9.50* (Int) | | |
| Tues | join other game | 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 | see p5 lessons | | |
| 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 Rovers 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 Rovers, The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth village, and Baytree Greenwich.



Happy 33rd Birthday Trumps!

