



Trumps Update

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Heartfelt blockage? by Derrick Browne

Newer players are notorious for getting stuck in the wrong hand with, for example, the lead in hand and no way to get the lead to dummy where all the winners are. We are taught to avoid this by cashing winners "high from the shorter holding", so as to finish up in the hand with the length in the suit so we can continue playing it, as here:

AQ opposite KJT94

On the first round of this suit play the A (high from the shorter holding) and contribute the 4 from the other hand. Then lead the Q and, with the holding shown above, *overtake* to get the lead to the other hand where the length is, so the suit can continue to be played.

Even many experienced players, however, fail to recognise unblocking situations when partner's cards cannot be seen, i.e. when you are defending rather than declaring.

South Deals, NS Vulnerable

♠ K Q 6
♥ 9 6 5
♦ A 10 8 4 2
♣ J 8

♠ 9 7
♥ K Q J 10 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ Q 10 2

♠ 10 5 4 3 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ 7 6
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A J 8
♥ 7 2
♦ K J 3
♣ A K 7 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
2♥	3NT	All pass	

After South opened 1NT, some West players figured pass was the best move, but at this table a 2H overcall was ventured. North figured that partner, the notrump bidder, was likely to have hearts stopped, hence the 3NT call.

West led the HK, encouraged by East with the H4, "low like". West continued with the HQ, winning, then another heart to East's ace. East, lamentably, had no heart left to lead back. On the club shift, declarer hopped up with the CA.

Declarer could count seven top tricks and the diamonds could provide at least two more, but it was clear that West, who was sitting on the remaining heart winners, must be kept off lead. This determined which way declarer would take the two-way diamond finesse.

Accordingly, declarer cashed the DK, then led DJ for the finesse. West played low and so did dummy. The finesse succeeded so declarer wound up with an overtrick, but declarer knew that even if East had the DQ and the finesse lost, at least the contract would still be made because East, unlike West, had no hearts left to cash.

Of course, declarer should not have been given the chance to make the contract. At the start of the hand, after the HK won the first trick and the HQ was led at trick two, East should have overtaken with the HA to unblock, and would then have had a small heart left to return to partner.

West, however, should have made it easier for partner. After winning the first heart trick, West could have led the H10 at the trick two. This was still big enough to drive out the HA if declarer had it, but would also make it clear to East to overtake if holding the ace, whereas it had not been so easy for East to plonk the HA on West's HQ when it had been led.

Blockages at bridge, like blockages of the drain, are messy and cause horrible gargling noises to be heard.

Do try to avoid them.



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.

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, Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

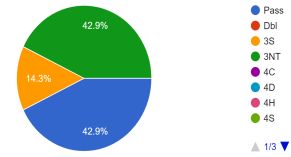
West Deals, NS Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	Dbl	3H*	?
♠ K 9 6			
♥ A 8 3			
♦ A 7 6 5			
♣ 9 7 3			

Votes by our panellist	
CALL	VOTES
Dbl	7

* 3H = weak, 4 card raise

Bidding problem
7 responses



Player's votes collected through trumps

We have a unanimous panel, which may surprise some members. I think quite a few club players will bid 3NT, but with Axx opposite a very likely singleton, we will need to win the heart lead and run 8 more tricks without losing the lead. That seems very unlikely on our hand. Partner would need a perfect hand: spade ace, and 5 solid running clubs. Even 5 solid clubs and diamond king is only 8 tricks before we lose the lead, and then 4 more heart tricks.

4D is another possible choice, but with a 4333 hand that is fairly unattractive, especially if partner raises to 5D. Also, partner might have a 4135 hand pattern, in which case, if we are to declare, we want to be playing in clubs.

Browne: There is no attractive option, so make a responsive (takeout) double which puts it back to partner - and puts partner in it, i.e. whatever partner bids, you pass and if it goes wrong, you say "well, partner, YOU were the one who bid it"!

Fahrer: Double - responsive, usually a balanced hand without 4 spades. Passing the buck to partner.

Giura: Double - responsive, denying 4S, over to partner.

Hughes: Double for takeout, in principle denying four spades. Will try 3NT over 3S and maybe 4D over 4C.

Klinger: Double. Responsive. A 'do-what's-best double. As partner has 0-1 heart, partner is likely to have a 5-card suit to bid. If not, partner will have to do the best in the suit chosen.

Rigal: Double: take out not four spades, typically. Blind guess - and I wouldn't be amazed to discover that our last plus score was passing three hearts. But that is too wimpish for me. I plan to bid four diamonds over a 4C response.

Totally reasonable, as three small trumps in dummy often disappoints partner.

Zines: Double, responsive, showing values and no clear action. Will rebid 3NT over partner's 3S. Could bid 3NT now, but will try to obtain more info from partner. Scary territory, as usual.

The main point is that when you have the option of making a fairly unilateral decision, or trying to include partner in the decision-making process, the latter is usually best. Here, partner holding a hand like this:

A J 5 4
Q
Q J 9
Q J 6 5 4

might bid 4C (and if we leave that, it has chances) or might try passing 3H doubled (and it's not too hard to imagine that in defence, we have 2 or even 3 spades, 2 diamonds and perhaps 2 hearts, for about 2 off, +300. Meanwhile, on a heart lead versus our 3NT, even if HQ luckily wins trick 1, we still lose three hearts and two clubs at least.



Player of the Month

Each month, we take the average of your best **SIX** scores in **Open** matchpoint sessions to decide the month's top achiever

Kerry Boytell 60%

Eric Lippey 60%

Barbara Gassmann 60%

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!

Trumps/ABF membership

Welcome to all our newly joined members. Collect your nametag ABF membership card if you have not collected them.

For existing members with home club Trumps, new ABF cards are now available to be collected from the back foyer or see staff.

Trumps publishing:

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

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

Month winners

To work this out, we take the best three scores by member pairs from the 4 or 5 matchpoint sessions that make up each monthly event. (**Seven pairs** need to have played three or more times for meaningful results)

Tuesday afternoon

- Meg Sharp & Barbara Gassmann

Tuesday night

- Alex Kemeny & Alessandro Gado

Wednesday afternoon open

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell

Wednesday night

- John Rendle & Tony Berg

Thursday morning

- Mary McDonald & Lilly Wilson

Thursday afternoon

- Vivienne McDonald & Sue Robinson

Friday afternoon

- Rob Holgate & Neil Williams

Friday night

- Michael Draper & Margaret Draper

Saturday afternoon

- Marilyn Vaughan & Christine Ingate

Most improved Rating

		Old	New	Gain
1	Ceiny Maybury	61.02	61.97	0.95
2	Marilyn Vaughan	58.74	59.58	0.84
3	Meg Sharp	60.19	60.90	0.71
4	Robyn Ronaldson	54.53	55.11	0.58
5	Valda Kol	52.46	53.03	0.57
6	Madeleine Gray	56.25	56.81	0.56
7	Bob Clayton	54.62	55.17	0.55
8	Tina Strickland	62.28	62.82	0.54
9	Clive Todd	35.26	35.80	0.54
10	Susan Salvage	50.79	51.33	0.54

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

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



Online Sessions

Currently we are running online bridge on BBO:

10am Tuesdays

7pm Tuesdays

1pm Wednesdays

1pm Saturdays

Funbridge

Search for Trumps bridge under exclusive tournament.



Masterpoint Promotions

Bill Tootill

Bronze Local

Ken Burke

Local

Toni Zaniboni

Local

Leonie Grattan

Graduate

Joe Rizzo

Graduate

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

Assign the blame

North made 4S doubled, while East-West easily make 5C. Who is to blame? Email your analysis, then compare with the experts, next issue.

West Deals, All Vulnerable

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C	1S	2C	2S
3C	3S	P	P
4C	4S	X	All pass

What to bid?

Choose your call then compare with expert's (published next month's edition). Trumps Standard and Pairs scoring.

East Deals, NS Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2S*	?

♠	Q
♥	K 9 4
♦	K
♣	A K Q J 9 8 6 3

2S* = weak two in spades

Send your answer through this link:

<https://forms.gle/ZgHZrYCnunWkiqd47>

Timetable

Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon		1.20*	
Tues	9.50*	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	9.50*	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	(lessons)		
Thurs	9.50*		
Fri	10am*		
Sat	10am*		

*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on page 4 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 Trumping!

