



Trumps Update

July 2022

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Understanding the Unusual by Derrick Browne

At favourable vulnerability, you pick up the following:

SOUTH (*you*)

♠ A 7 6 5 4

♥ K 10 9

♦ 5 4 3

♣ K 5

Lead: ♠3

EAST (*dummy*)

♠ Q J 9 2

♥ Q J 8 7 6

♦ J

♣ Q 3 2

Your left hand opponent opens 1♥ and partner overcalls 2NT. This is the Unusual 2NT, showing at least 5-5 in the minors and (usually) a weak hand. East jumps to 4♥ and you decide to pass, due to the lack of a clear alternative. When it goes back to your partner, however, she backs in with a bid of 4NT, passed to you.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	2NT	4♥	pass
pass	4NT	pass	?

Partner cannot suddenly have developed a strong enough hand to ask for aces so the 4NT bid cannot be Blackwood, it is still a form of the Unusual Notrump, but with more extreme length (to back in at this level). Having already shown both minors, why did North not just bid 5♣ to force you to pick a minor? The answer is that 5♣ would suggest that the clubs were at least as good as the diamonds. The 4NT bid, refusing to emphasise the clubs, shows that diamonds are the longer minor.

You bid 5♦, passed around to East who ventures back in with 5♥. You double - after all, you have a spade winner, a likely trump trick, and short enough minors that the opponents will hopefully not too soon be trumping any winners your side has there. That concludes the auction, and partner leads the ♠3.

SOUTH (*you*)

♠ A 7 6 5 4

♥ K 10 9

♦ 5 4 3

♣ K 5

Given that partner has shown extreme shape in the minors, her lead of the ♠3 must be a short suit lead. It cannot be high-low from a doubleton (as the only lower spade, the ♠2, is in dummy) so it must be a singleton. You take the ♠A but before you return a spade, you check the opponents' system card which confirms that the 1♥ opening promised five hearts, so partner has none so there is no point trying to give her a spade ruff.

The lead of a singleton when holding no trumps is a poor lead. Partner must have had no other good choice of lead - no touching honours, for example; probably her minors are headed by the ace without king (poor suits to lead from). Backing your judgment, you bang down the ♣K, and sure enough this holds, while partner plays signals encouragement. You lead your other club, and ruff the return. Next you lead a diamond, and partner wins the ♦A then leads another club, ruffed by dummy's ♥Q. You have the K-10 of hearts remaining. Should you overruff?

Remembering partner's Unusual 2NT, you know declarer can have no more clubs left. If you overruff with the ♥K, declarer will beat you with the ♥A, then draw your last trump. Instead, you discard. That leaves you with the K-10 of hearts sitting over dummy's ♥J, so you will make another trump trick.

Four off, doubled and vulnerable, gives you a top board, beating even the ambitious North-South pair who bid to 6♦, which makes easily thanks to the favourable breaks in the minors.

NORTH (*dummy*)

♠ 3

♥ —

♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 2

♣ A J 9 8 7

WEST

♠ K 10 8

♥ A 5 4 3 2

♦ K Q

♣ 10 6 4

EAST

♠ Q J 9 2

♥ Q J 8 7 6

♦ J

♣ Q 3 2

SOUTH (*you*)

♠ A 7 6 5 4

♥ K 10 9

♦ 5 4 3

♣ K 5



When bridge seems a struggle, think of Trumpster Gilly Grose, pictured winning her category in this year's Balmoral Burn!



Masterpoint Promotions (June)

Alexander Cook

Grand

Meg Sharp

Silver Life

Warwick Plunkett

Bronze Local

Alex Matthews

Bronze Local

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

At last, a flipper on the modern 2-over-1 system of bidding, including all common bidding situations and some conventions of special utility if playing this method. RRP \$9.95.



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 Fahrner from The Bridge Shop and NSW representatives Tina Zines, Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

South Deals, Nil Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

2♠ 3♠* Pass 1♣
3♠ = asking for a spade stopper for 3NT

♠ J 10 8
♥ K 5
♦ 6 4
♣ A K Q 10 6 5

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
5♣	3
3NT	2
4NT	1
4♣	1

That 3♠ bid is a common usage amongst experienced players. But do we have a spade stopper? Have you and your partner discussed whether this 3♠ bid forcing to game, or can we stop in 4♣?

Fahrner & Giura: 5♣. 3♠ says "I would like to play 3NT if you have a stopper, or clubs if you do not".

Rigal: 5♣. Trying to show extras and no spade stopper. If 3♠ shows club support I'm happier than if it could be any random hand. Yes it may look silly if partner has three small spades but I look pretty silly at the best of times.

Yes, I think 3♠ should show at least 4 clubs. And that 5♣ in reply to it shows extras, because 4♣ would be bid on any number of minimum nebulous opening hands with 3 or 4 clubs.

Zines: 4♣. Playing it straight. Will be sorry if partner has Qx in spades. *Maybe under-cooking it?*

I've found that a 2♠ bidder seldom has A-K-Q-x-x-x. So with a half-stop, it's reasonable to try 3NT, provided partner is understanding on those occasions when you do lose the first six tricks, viz:

Klinger: 3NT. I will pay out when they can run the spade suit, but chuckle when I have 9+ tricks opposite ♠Q singleton or doubleton. Most of the time West will not have A-K-Q-x-x-x. If partner has 3 low spades and West has six spades headed by A-K, A-Q or K-Q, the spades are blocked and West is unlikely to have an outside entry. Ditto if partner has two spades and East has K-Q tight.

Browne: 3NT. I'll take the bait and try 3NT. Maybe partner has the ♠Q (even singleton would be enough for us to stop spades). Maybe the suit is blocked. Maybe West doesn't lead spades. Or maybe we go down in notrumps, a lot.

Hughes: 4NT, Roman Keycard Blackwood I hope. I think partner has a spade control and is making an advance cue bid. My clubs make it unlikely that partner has the sort of hand that wants to play 3NT opposite a spade stopper. I'm guessing partner as x-AQx-AKxx-Jxxxx, or similar. I'm assuming 1430, so we can play 5♣ opposite x-AQx-KQJx-Jxxxx.

Nick is on a different wavelength to me but ok: 4NT leads to 6♣, making on the winning ♥Q finesse. North had A7-AJ8-AJ95-J842 but didn't like A7 as a stopper with the opening lead coming towards the spades. North thought it better to angle for 3NT by opener, who might hold ♠Qx (or J 10 x!), and put the spade bidder on lead. At one table, South replied 4♣ thinking it forcing, but it was passed out for a poor score. I will leave it to you to allocate the blame between North and South. ♠♥♦♣

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

Sue Robinson 63%

Vivienne McDonald 63%

Congratulations!

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons

10am Wednesdays from 3 Aug **or**

7.30pm Wednesdays from 3 Aug.

Improver training

10am Fridays till 29 July.

Improvers' play

10am Fridays from 5 August

Learn 2-over1 then duplicate

7pm Thursdays from 12 May

GNOT (Butler play as pair)

DAY - 1.20 for 1.30pm Friday
22,29 July, 12,19 August and 2,9
September (no **5 & 26** Aug - see below)

NIGHT - 7 for 7.15pm Friday
22,29 July, 5,12,19 August

(+\$2/session, +normal table money)

State wide pairs

1.20 for 1.30pm Friday 5 August
(+\$4 extra)

Winter teams

10am Sunday 7 August

Australia wide pairs

1.20 for 1.30pm Friday 26 August

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 @ The Manly club

- Alan & Molly King

Tuesday morning

- Charles Thorburn & Nick Debenham

Tuesday afternoon

- Marika Kruppay & Patricia Gordon

Tuesday night

- Anthea Piddington & Bryan Meagher

Wednesday afternoon

- Gilly Grose & Valda Kol

Wednesday night

- Lenore Plummer & Sandra Day

Thursday morning

- Anthea Piddington & Bryan Meagher

Thursday afternoon

- Margaret Stevens & Sue Luby

Thursday @ Warringah bowling

- Jan Steward & Sue Cooper

Saturday afternoon

- Vivienne McDonald & Sue Robinson

Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Anthony Pearce	55.82	56.51	0.69
2	Carolyn Rendle	56.53	57.19	0.66
3	Timothy Bestelink	58.66	59.12	0.46
4	Baz Neil	57.91	58.33	0.42
5	Leif Rasmussen	51.22	51.59	0.37
6	Frances Harridge	52.06	52.42	0.36
7	Deirdre Manning	45.93	46.27	0.34
8	Isabel Masterton	51.63	51.96	0.33
9	Trudy Bruce	46.80	47.12	0.32
10	Sue Allen	58.93	59.24	0.31

Trumps publishing:

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

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

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

Duplicate at Monash, Ingleside

9.30am Thursdays

Bridge @ Warringah bowling

1pm Thursdays

Balmoral (members only)

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 Funbridge

Search for Trumps under exclusive tournaments.

Password Trumps

Canberra Mercure

Sun 11 to Wed 14 Sep from \$699pp



Top Rated

	Name	Ratings
1	Derrick Browne	68.08
2	Eric Lippey	66.98
3	Kerry Boytell	66.89
4	Alessandro Gado	66.79
5	Alex Kemeny	65.57
6	Kevin Murray	63.64
7	Neil Williams	63.35
8	Fay Cooney	63.20
9	Sue Robinson	63.12
10	Tina Strickland	62.87

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

What to bid?

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

South Deals, Both Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass

1♦ 1♥ Double* Pass

1NT 2♥ Pass ?

Double = exactly 4 spades, some values

♠ 10 9 6 5 3

♥ 9 8

♦ K

♣ A J 10 8 3

Timetable

Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon	9.50* (New format)	1.20*	
Tues	<i>join other game</i>	1.20*	7pm*
Wed		1.15*	7pm*
Thurs	9.50*	1.20*	7pm*
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			7pm
Fri	<i>see p5 lessons</i>		
Sat	10am*		

*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on **p5** for other session time)

Benefits

Of Trumps membership

- A monthly update of news, views and tips
- Save \$3 on duplicate sessions at and lessons at Trumps
- Discount on prepaid game vouchers.
- Reciprocal membership rights at Warringah Bowls Mosman Bridge Group, Bridge @ The Manly Club, Social Bridge, Turrumurra, 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: Warringah bowling club, The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth Village, Mosman Rowers, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣