



# Trumps Update

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## Not just a matter of preference

by Derrick Browne

This deal from a Trumps duplicate has a few points of interest. The first problem was for South, in deciding what to open:

NORTH (*you*)

♠ 8 4 3

♥ A 8 6 4

♦ 8 7 4 3

♣ 6 5

SOUTH (*partner*)

♠ A K 10 7 5

♥ J

♦ A 10

♣ A Q J 8 7

The South hand has an expected four losers, one in each suit (assuming normal breaks where each card after the first three in each long suit becomes a winner) and game is likely if partner has something – even a yarborough with long spades.

Thus it is reasonable to start with your game force (Strong 2♣ if playing that) but this could propel you too high to show both your suits, so South decided to start gently, with a 1-opening. With two five-card suits, open the higher-ranked, 1♠.

North, with only 5 points including shortage, passed, although bullish players would consider this hand to be worth a spade raise. In practice, the 1♠ opening was followed by two passes, and East bid 2♥. This is normally fine strategy by the opponents, coming in when you are about to stop at the 1-level so as not to allow you an easy run. When you are about to stop so low, the opponents figure you can't be too strong and so they aim to edge you up a little.

Despite North's regrettable silence so far, South is good enough to show the other suit, 3♣, over which West competes to 3♥. Now it is up to North – is this hand worth a bid? The auction so far is shown below:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	pass	pass	2♥
3♣	3♥	?	

If West had passed over South's 3♣, North would have been obliged to "give preference" by returning to South's first suit even without any points and even, for that matter, with only a doubleton in each black suit (we assume partner's first-bid suit may be longer than the second so with equal length in both, we avoid leaving partner in the second suit).

Now that West has bid, North is no longer *obliged* to give preference to spades. Obligation or not, however, 3♠ is the right call; if South was prepared to make North bid even with nothing, then North should feel pretty happy about bidding with this hand, with a guaranteed fit, an ace and even a doubleton – about as good a hand as you could ever have and not have responded in the first case.

Figuring that North might have something decent like this to offer a "free bid" (as distinct from just obligatory preference), South decided to take a stab at game, 4♠. West led the 5 of hearts, won by dummy's ace. How should declarer continue?

Take advantage of having the lead in dummy to finesse in clubs; the ♣Q holds the trick. While there are still trumps in dummy, it is necessary to ruff any club losers. Thus win the ♣A (opponents following low), and play at most one round of trumps before playing another club and ruffing it. The complete hand:

NORTH (*dummy*)

♠ 8 4 3  
♥ A 8 6 4  
♦ 8 7 4 3  
♣ 6 5

WEST

♠ 9 6 2  
♥ 9 5 2  
♦ K Q J 2  
♣ 9 3 2

EAST

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

SOUTH(*you*)

♠ A K 10 7 5  
♥ J  
♦ A 10  
♣ A Q J 8 7

As you see, both opponents follow when the third round of clubs is ruffed in dummy so the remaining clubs are winners and trumps can now be drawn. When the Q-J of spades fall doubleton, you claim 12 tricks.

You were very lucky on this hand - you needed the opponents' bidding to help you reach a game that then makes with overtricks due to a promiscuously friendly lie of the cards.



## Masterpoint Promotions (April)

Kerry Boytell

Silver Life

Maureen Collins

Bronze State

Elaine Massey

Graduate

Helen Anderson

Graduate

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

**Winners of the Under Grand Master Teams held at the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide: Trumpsters Kevin Murray, Peter Fitzmaurice, Neil Williams and Rob Holgate.**



## Congratulations

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

## West Deals, Nil Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1♠	?

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

Votes by our panellists

CALL	VOTES
Double	6
Pass	1
2♣	zero !

*Is this hand good enough to take action? If so, by bidding the clubs, or something else?*

**Giura:** Double. And pass whatever partner bids.

*And people say it's a difficult game! Sounds like a sensible and very simple approach to me.*

**Browne:** Double. I think I held this hand, but can't remember now whether I overcalled 2♣ or doubled. Not vulnerable, I am tempted not to pass. This time around, put me down for an underweight takeout double, because the clubs are pretty ordinary. Double is often made with four hearts and if this expectation induces partner to bid or lead hearts, I shan't be unhappy.

**Hughes:** This is a routine takeout double. Would be a bit nervous if vulnerable.

**Klinger:** Double. Although underweight in terms of HCP, the shape is excellent for the double. Had the hand pattern been 2-4-3-4, I would have passed, but the singleton spade means that it is likely that West will have spade support. By doubling now, there is the prospect of competing sensibly for the part-score or for finding a decent sacrifice. Yes, partner is a passed hand, but partner could easily have length in any of the non-spade suits. 5♣ would be an OK spot opposite a hand like xxxx-Ax-x-Kxxxxx or a decent save against 4♠ with a North hand like xxx-xxx-Ax-KQxxx.

**Rigal:** Pass. Doubling when they have the boss suit and partner is a passed hand doesn't seem necessary. Maybe coming in now is safer; I don't have any quarrel with that argument.

**Zines:** Double. A good, if minimum, supporting hand. Would not consider overcalling 2♣.

*I'm confident a fair percentage of club players will bid 2♣. But, apart from hiding the heart suit, the suit fails the suit quality test for an overcall. Many experts use this test: the number of cards in the suit plus the number of honours (a ten is an honour) should be at least equal to the number of tricks you are bidding for. Here 5 clubs + 2 honours = 7, but a bid of 2♣ is for 8 tricks, so don't bid 2♣.*

**Fahrer:** Double - the most flexible option (2♣ is horrible). Partner should know you've seen him pass already.

*West raised to 3♠ with a decent hand: ♠A-5-4-3, ♥6-3, ♦K-Q-3-2, ♣8-7-3. Partner (North) doubled with ♠J-7-4, ♥J-10-4-2, ♦A-J-5-4, ♣Q-9, which seems unusual. If you pass, East in 3♠ has to lose a heart, a diamond and 3 clubs, provided you do not lead the ♣A (avoid leading aces unless you also have the king).*



## 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

**Tim Trahair 64%**

*Congratulations!*



## Lessons & events

### Beginner Lessons

7pm Mondays **or**  
10am Wednesdays.

### Improvers Lessons

10am Fridays from 6 May.

### Open lesson, relaxed duplicate

9.45am Mondays (with 30min lesson)

### Learn 2-over1 then duplicate

6.45pm Thursdays from 12 May

### Directors course

10am Sunday on 29 May.

## Gold points

### GNOT Butler

1.30pm Fridays 20 May – 17 Jun

7pm Fridays 20 May – 17 Jun

## 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 bridge @ The Manly club

- Phillip Brown & Joe Rizzo **57.73%**

### Tuesday morning

- Anne Morris & Gill Chambers **64.77%**

### Tuesday afternoon

- Mary Sifis & Rosemary Smart **51.33%**

### Tuesday night

- Nurhan Parker & Tim Bestelink **54.90%**

### Wednesday night

- Elaine Healy & Linda Brooke **53.90%**

### Thursday morning

- John Green & David Hutchinson **63.87%**

### Thursday afternoon

- Tim Trahair & Jeremy Trahair **61.0%**

### Friday afternoon

- Rob Holgate & Neil Williams **62.10%**

### Friday night

- Michael Draper & Margaret Draper **57.93%**

### Saturday afternoon

- Marika Kruppay & Patricia Gordon **56.53%**

## Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Suzie Wall	55.62	56.94	1.32
2	Hien Dang	39.68	40.46	0.78
3	Judith Mcphee	58.70	59.45	0.75
4	Peter Titley	48.88	49.58	0.70
5	Rob Holgate	62.56	63.24	0.68
6	Gloria Picker	43.12	43.80	0.68
7	Hanlon Chiddy	58.91	59.58	0.67
8	Linda Brooke	42.40	43.06	0.66
9	Derrick Browne	68.15	68.81	0.66
10	Margaret Titley	56.94	57.59	0.65

## 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)

### 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 bowl Club

1pm Thursdays from 12 May

#### 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	Eric Lippey	67.24
2	Kerry Boytell	67.14
3	Alessandro Gado	66.79
4	Alex Kemeny	65.36
5	Kevin Murray	63.53
6	Neil Williams	63.43
7	Rob Holgate	63.24
8	Fay Cooney	63.09
9	Barbara Gassmann	62.80
10	Sue Robinson	62.69

(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, Nil Vulnerable

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

?

♠ 6

♥ Q10 7

♦ 10

♣ A Q J 10 9 8 4 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*	6.45pm* <i>(from 12 May)</i>
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, 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: Warringah bowlo, The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth Village, Mosman Rowers, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣