



Trumps Update

Feb/March 2023

www.trumps.net.au

(02) 9969 5959

trumps@trumps.net.au

www.facebook.com/trumpsbridgecentre

Do geese see God? by Derrick Browne

To keep faith in our most transcendent of games, you must relish any moment of epiphany, while accepting that you will feel like a goose at times. Pray take a gander at this deal, from the South-West Pacific Teams (held each January, in Canberra) some years back

WEST

♠ QJ2
♥ AK87
♦ K72
♣ J74

EAST

♠ A3
♥ 432
♦ AJ10854
♣ Q10

You are West in a contract of 3NT, on the lead of the ♠5 from North. Because you are playing teams, the scoring is at IMPs, meaning that overtricks are unimportant. The key is to play safely for your nine tricks.

Improving your bridge involves perspiration, as well as more blinding flashes of inspiration than you would encounter on a long walk along the road to Damascus.

A beginner tackling this hand would bang down the five easy winners; if the ♦Q does not fall, most of the rest of the tricks will be lost. Intermediate players learn to finesse (e.g. playing low on the spade lead, hoping the ♠K is with North) and to play the long suit (diamonds) and most of the time, such strategies will lead to success.

Expert players think through the hand. The danger is that if you play a low spade from dummy (East), South might win the ♠K and switch to clubs, where you have only one stopper. Upon gaining the lead you must attack diamonds to set up your tricks, but then if you lose a trick to the ♦Q the opponents may have another club or two to cash, thereby defeating the contract.

At the table, declarer found a safer route to nine tricks. There was one top trick in spades, two top tricks in hearts, and that diamonds would surely provide five tricks (once the ♦Q was knocked out). That made eight tricks, and the ninth trick would later come from spades (or from clubs if the opponents played that suit).

Accordingly, the ♠A was won at trick one, to avoid any risk that South might get the lead and shift to clubs. The other question was: how should diamonds be played?

The normal line with nine cards in a suit, missing the queen, is to play for it to drop, not to finesse ("eight ever, nine never"). But if the ♦Q does not drop, there will be no entry to dummy's remaining diamonds.

Again, a safety play was called for: declarer led to the ♦K, then finessed to dummy's ♦J. It mattered not if this lost, because there is still a diamond in the West hand to get to dummy, and nine tricks are guaranteed.

NORTH

♠ K1085
♥ 10
♦ Q96
♣ K9852

WEST

♠ QJ2
♥ AK87
♦ K72
♣ J74

EAST

♠ A3
♥ 432
♦ AJ10854
♣ Q10

SOUTH

♠ 9764
♥ QJ965
♦ 3
♣ A63

Continued...

Imperfect lines often succeed, as here. The perfect theoretical solution will appear only to a theorist – like Martin Clear, computer programmer, former North Shore Bridge Club manager, world palindrome champion, and co-star of the film *The Palindromist* (a palindrome reads the same backwards and forwards – like the headline of this article).

Martin observed that there's an interesting defence to the line I outlined, if South has Q-x-x of diamonds. If North shows out on the second round of the suit, how are you going to set up the diamonds? You have to concede the second trick to South's stopper, or you lose the whole diamond suit, but then a diamond return(!) leaves you in dummy for the last time... so you have to cash all the diamonds now or never. But cashing the sixth diamond makes a suicide squeeze against the black stoppers in the closed hand, and the defence can prevail by having each defender keep an extended menace in one black suit each. The defenders score ♦Q, A-K of clubs and the ♠K, and one other black card in whichever black stopper you destroy. If, in order to keep both black stoppers, you fail to cash out the diamonds, the defenders can each keep one spade extra, and then whichever black suit you set up, they can duck a spade (only your EIGHTH trick, because you didn't cash out the diamonds) and still get five in defence .

Thus for maximum safety, the best line is NOT "Play a diamond to the king, then finesse", it's to finesse immediately. Run the ♦J from dummy at trick two. This beats all 2-2 and 3-1 breaks (and a South void) because you lose only the FIRST diamond, and there's no suicide squeeze return because you can take the ♦K return and set up your ninth trick in spades while you still have access to the winners in both hands.

You will find this line only once your bridge has been truly deified (a palindromic word, of course) but not in a holy way, for such skill comes only from a misspent life of cards, or in the palindromic words of John Taylor (c. 1614): *Lewd did I live, evil I did dwell*.



Masterpoint Promotions (January)

Neil Williams	Gold Life
Lesley Murray	State
Heather Sherlock	Graduate
Mary Austin	Graduate



Congratulations! See us when you are at Trumps to celebrate & collect your promotion certificate!

Bridge Celebration!

Sunday 5 March

1pm (nibble/drink)
for 1.30pm (bridge)

Free if joined/renewed for **2023** else normal table fee.



Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

You're South with the hand shown. Choose a call then compare with the experts. Trumps Standard bidding. On our panel, Derrick Browne and leading world bridge authorities Barry Rigal and Ron Klinger are joined by Nick Fahrre from The Bridge Shop, Trumps member Alexander Cook and NSW representatives Tina Zines, Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

South Deals, Nil Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
Pass	2♦	5♥	?

♠ A K J 10 8 6
♥ 3 2
♦ 9
♣ Q J 10 4

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
Pass	7
Double	1

A nice shapely hand but East has messed us up, with a jump to five hearts!

Zines: Double. Only one card in partner's suit and two losing hearts.

A good summation of the reasons we would want to defend on this hand. Often, a high level double issues an opinion to partner that we should defend. Two is the worst number of hearts we can have, since partner may also have two low ones. We can assume the 5♥ bidder has, say, 8 hearts.

Fahrre: Pass. Two small hearts is very unattractive.

Browne: Pass. Let partner decide what to do, as it is not clear from my hand.

Hughes: Pass. Partner may be the sort that thinks that the auction is forcing and that double by me would be "regressive". However, we don't have that agreement. When partner doubles or bids 5♠, I will pass again.

Giura: Pass. Fairly clear to me.

Klinger: Pass. When I actually do this, it is usually my best action.

Why has East bid 5♥ anyway, when 4♥ is game? The usual answer is that East is prepared to go onto 5♥ over our presumed 4♠ bid. A hand with KQJ10xxxx in hearts would be suitable, as that hand has zero defensive tricks. A player holding this hand opposite a passed partner knows 4♠ will make. Apply maximum pressure early, by giving us a quick guess as to what to do after a bid of 5♥!

Cook: Pass. This is forcing whether we are playing standard or "2 over 1 forcing to game". With a balanced hand I would double to warn partner from bidding on. But here I can tolerate partner doubling or bidding 5♠. It's close between doubling and pass, due to the shortage in partner's suit.

A good summary of the fact that this hand does have some quite good potential, with the strong 6/4 shape, which is often good for declaring.

Rigal: Pass. You gotta be kidding me. I have no idea what to do; why should I tell partner I do?

When this hand was played at Trumps some months ago, quite a few players bid 5♠. So I thought I'd ask the panel. Well yes, we have a lovely spade suit but it's a good idea not to be "stampeded" into bidding at a level higher than your cards warrant. When you opened 1♠, you didn't plan to bid at the 5 level, so do not do it just because your opponent has jumped to that level.

Partner had a very interesting hand: ♠42, ♥—, ♦KQJ10832, ♣AK96, and 6♦ is making (but not 6♠). If South doubles 5♥, it may make it harder for North to bid on to 6♦. 5♥ doubled is only 2 down, so 300 is not much compensation for missing a score of 920 in 6♦.



Lessons & events

Basic training & supervised

10am Wednesdays

Intermediate Lessons

10am Fridays

Novice training

7pm Thursdays 9 March to 13 Apr

Celebration day

1pm Sunday 5 March

Red Points

Usually held 1.20 for 1.30pm
Wednesdays and Fridays

Also some other times e.g. 7pm
some Fridays and Sunday teams
and Easter Festival (per schedule)

Mixed Pairs (reds at State level)

Trumps qual is Wed afts 1, 8, 15
Mar, and Friday nights 3, 10 Mar

Good Friday pairs

10am Sunday 7 April

Easter teams

10am Sunday 9 April



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)

Monday afternoon

- Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson

Tuesday morning

- Mary McDonald & Lilly Wilson

Tuesday afternoon

- Kim Dalling & Cia Benecke

Tuesday night

- Nick Scott & Janet Scott

Thursday morning

- Kitty Biro & Kerry Boytell

Friday afternoon

- Tim Trahair & Jeremy Trahair

Friday night

- Robin Ho & Alexander Cook

Saturday afternoon

- Marika Kruppay & Patricia Gordon

Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Pamela Veillard	43.95	45.76	1.81
2	Mary McBean	45.45	46.69	1.24
3	Kerrie Steggles	43.19	44.41	1.22
4	Kim Dalling	62.16	63.17	1.01
5	Linda Brooke	43.96	44.96	1
6	Sue Cooper	55.73	56.65	0.92
7	Alison O'Neill	52.09	53.01	0.92
8	Elaine Healy	53.84	54.71	0.87
9	Clive Todd	39.66	40.49	0.83
10	Toni Zaniboni	47.96	48.74	0.78

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



Top Rated

	Name	Ratings
1	Richard Samuels	67.24
2	Alessandro Gado	66.42
3	Alex Kemeny	66.19
4	Kerry Boytell	65.53
5	Eric Lippey	65.29
6	Neil Williams	64.18
7	Barbara Gassmann	63.38
8	Fay Cooney	63.35
9	Kim Dalling	63.17
10	Tina Strickland	63.02

(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, EW Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
2♦	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ Q3
♥ AQJ983
♦ —
♣ KQ832

Yvonne FitzSimons snapped Kiandra Browne filling in for the first time (on a Wednesday afternoon), at the same age as brother Jarrah first filled in (when he was on a bridge cruise).

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*	
Fri	9.50*	1.20*	7pm*
Sat		1.30	

*These games start with a short talk.

Red/gold points usually 1.20pm Wed & 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 the previous page for other session times)

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 Bowling Club, The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth Village, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣