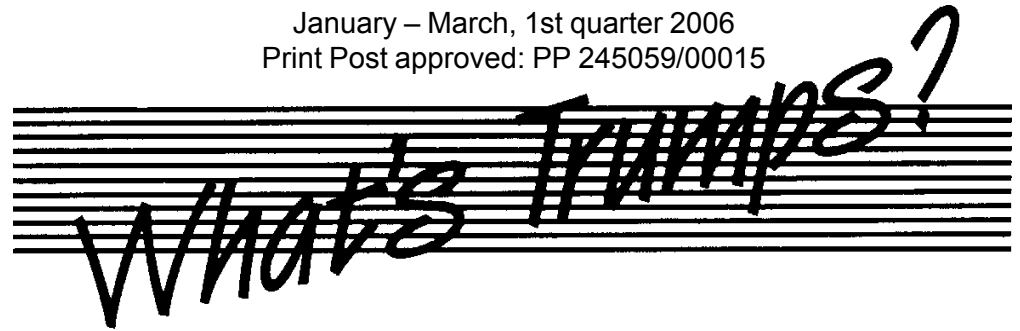


January – March, 1st quarter 2006  
Print Post approved: PP 245059/00015



# Merry Christmas!

Christmas party duplicate winners Pat Dowling, Jessie Coppa, Patricia Gordon and Tibor Kormendi are pictured below being congratulated by Santa. No sooner do the Christmas festivities die down than the Trumps Festival of Bridge (26 December to 2 January) launches us off into another exciting year! See the separate Festival booklet for details of all the special events during that period, as well as some of our regular sessions that are also held. The Trumps program is back to normal from Tuesday 3 January. Turn over for details of special events and holidays, or go to the back page for a full program of lessons.

From all of us at the club, have a very happy 2006, and happy Trumping!



## Coming Events

**Tues nights and Weds** Each month there is a dinner prize for the top score (members only) on Tuesday nights, and another for one of the other games, provided by Paton Pidcock Real Estate. **January prize: best average score in 1.30pm game Wednesday 18, 25 Jan & 1 Feb (only one sub allowed). February: winners of Cavendish, 1.30pm Wed 8, 15 Feb. March: winners of Swiss Pairs, 1.30pm Wed 1, 8, 15 March.**

**Red points** *Red masterpoints are available Wednesdays at 1.30 pm.* Afternoon games are half price for those who played the morning session.

Regular program for 2005 ends Sat 24 Dec, on which day only the afternoon game is held. Closed on Xmas day. Trumps Festival of Bridge runs 26 Dec to 2 Jan and includes several regular sessions. Normal play resumes Tuesday morning 3 January 2006.

**New Year Teams** Wed 1.30pm, 4 and 11 January. Brush up for Canberra!

**Dinner prize pairs** Wed 1.30pm, 18 & 25 Jan, 1 Feb. Dinner prize to winners! Only one substitution allowed (on one occasion).

**Bayside Summer Teams** at 666 NSH Rd, Rose Bay, ph 9388 2662. Sunday 5 Feb, 10am - 5.30pm. Red points, cash prizes, \$27.50 pp includes lunch.

**Cavendish Pairs** Wed 1.30pm, 8 and 15 February. Dinner prize to winners!

**Summer Teams** Sunday 12 Feb, 10am - 5.30pm. Red points, big prizes, \$27.50 pp includes lunch.

**Trumps Day Swiss** Wed 1.30pm, 1, 8, 15 March. Dinner prize to winners!

**Sunday GNOT** Sunday 5 March, 10am - 5.30pm. **Gold points!** \$27.50 pp includes lunch.

**Win GFP entry** Wed 1.30pm, 5 and 12 April. Top pair win entry to the Good Friday Pairs congress.

**Good Friday Pairs** 14 April, 10am - 5.30pm. Red points, cash prizes, \$27.50 pp includes lunch. No other games held on Good Friday.

**Easter Teams** Sunday 16 April, 10am - 5.30. Red points, cash prizes, \$27.50 pp includes lunch.



*Horses and hats: Cup Day Nov 2005*

## Holidays

**Coaching@the retreat** Wisemans Ferry, Wed 1 to Fri 3 February 2006. Improve your bridge while having a wonderful holiday at this delightful venue on the Hawkesbury. Derrick teams up with Lynn Kalmin (Lindfield bridge instructor) and John Newman (former NSW State Bridge Instructor) to present lessons, training and play, with a choice of Open or Developing Player sections. \$359pp, +\$145 single supplement.



**Berida Manor** Bowral holiday, Mon 13 to Wed 15 March 2006. Choose Open or Developers. Twin share \$339 (+ \$50 suite) pp. Single supplement \$120. Deposit (\$100) by 13 Jan for \$10 early bird discount.

**New Zealand cruise** 18-31 March on the Pacific Princess. Dunedin, Christchurch, Picton, Auckland and the Bay of Islands, from \$4054.

**Terrigal holiday** Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June, we return to the Clan Lakeside Lodge, and this time on a weekend so those who work mid-week can join us too! Pictured are Mary White, Joan Lee, Yvonne Le Fort and Louise Kobler at our December Clan holiday. These two pairs came equal first in the Pairs Championship Final, after each pair had come first in their direction in the Qualifying!



**Moss Vale** 14-17 August, Mon - Thur at Dormie House. Join us for our annual 3-night getaway at this popular guesthouse with its warmth, charm and delicious country style meals.



**and more!** The annual Thredbo holiday 7-13 January is full. Gabbie and Colleen are organising travel to Vietnam in February. Derrick and John are taking a trip to France in late August or September.

## Thank You. Trumpers!

from Josephite Community Aid (JCA)

Earlier in the year, JCA – an organisation that caters for recently arrived refugee families in the West of Sydney – asked whether I might rally some support for the Christmas Hamper Drive and form a *Mosman Cell*.

Their hope was that this would lead to about 15 hampers. Well, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the *Bridgies*, we made up 22 bulging and beautiful hampers from Trumps alone! Special thanks to those who brought in children's toys, bikes, linen and cloths.

Your kindness is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas,

*Suzie Daniel*

## Southern Sirens

When Derrick and John visited Berida Manor to organise the next bridge holiday there, they found a major police operation in progress.

Manager Paul Borland wrote:

“As it turns out, the fugitive was wanted in regards to an alleged shoplifting incident in town. It seems the reason for all the attention was a result of there being a police-training day on!

“I guess the trainees were keen to do well and probably thought it was all just part of the exercise. The offender was known to the law and I bet he was wishing he had picked another day to do his shopping.”

## Major winners

### Australia-wide Pairs

NS Colleen Tognetti & Rod Binsted  
EW Sue Allen & Tibor Kormendi

### Trumps Day Teams

Sue Allen, Tibor Kormendi  
Shirley Phillips, Lorraine Shiels

### Trumps Night Teams

Mike & Shirley Phillips  
Tina Strickland & Griet Smuts

### State Pairs Qualifying

Frances Lyons & Janette Bates

### Birthday Pairs

Alison Terry & Henrietta Hohnen

### November Dinner Prize - Wednesdays

Claire Sasson & Catherine Oslington

### Jackpot Swiss Pairs Winners

Anthony Newman & Nick Rodwell

The Swiss Pairs is held on Wednesday nights. There are four matches of six boards with a short discussion of the boards after each match, featuring a panel of experts.

Good bridge and educational as well! To leave time for discussion, we start at 7.30 sharp so don't be late! Best to be seated by 7.25. There will be a party at the start of 4th January session to bring in the new year.

Should you pre-alert if playing weak notrump? (Acol)

Yes, I think so. Acol is quite rare at Trumps – people rightly assume a 1NT opening is strong.

*Nick*

## Trumps Promotions

These are the people who went up to the next Trumps Masterpoint Ranking in the last quarter (September - November). Trumps masterpoints are points won at Trumps starting from 1 Jan 2002. If you're on the list, we have a *stylish new* certificate and key ring – or other reward – waiting for you.

### Trumps State Master:

Jessie Coppa

### Trumps Regional :

Sybil Curtis  
Brian McGee  
Barbara Ryan  
Norma Swain

### Trumps \*\*Local Master:

Robin Dent  
Trish Harrison  
Frances Herbert  
Elaine Lee  
Anne Morris  
Bruce Noake  
Hugh Sanders  
Alfred Stamp  
Lynn Trainor  
Kerrie Tucker  
Diana Weaver  
Virstine Yazdanparast

### Trumps \*Local Master:

Renee FitzGerald  
Gloria Flew  
Ruth Grahame  
Sandra Guenther  
Helen Hattersley  
Imelda Hull  
Louise Kobler  
Vivienne McDonald  
Robbi O'Brien  
Colleen Tognetti

### Trumps Local Master:

Chris Bennett  
Pat Clark  
Dennis Colombo  
Nadia Darvey  
Sophie Davis  
Georges Gassmann  
Pat Hawkins

Olivia Johnson  
Lorraine Jones  
Casey Joosse  
Joy Lake  
Jan O'Donnell  
Joan Pavitt  
Margaret Polin  
Noshir Sachinwalla  
Anne Scollon  
Marcia Sinclair

### Trumps Club Master:

Carole Bailey  
Helen Baxter  
Cheryn Beech  
Beryl Cubis  
Denis Cubis  
Belinda Derrin  
John Fox  
Pauline Hatherley  
Wilma Knight  
Kaye Koder  
Michael Koder  
Barbara Lane  
Tony Lawrance  
Margaret Lawson  
Ruth Longworth

Margaret Potter  
Jillian Raymond  
Frank Ryan  
Roslyn Smith  
Margaret Stevens

### Trumps Graduate :

Nu Beasley  
Gabrielle Bluett  
Pam Brophy  
Christina Carnegie  
Barbara Farrell  
Jill Folbigg  
Anne Galbraith  
Ingrid Graves  
Gilly Grose  
Tony Jones  
Gideon Levy  
Kate Magarey  
Barbara Milhouse  
Anne Moore  
Buff Netherton  
Fazeley Read  
Margaret Richards  
Pat Rochester  
Robyn Ronaldson  
Cheryl Thomas

### Wednesday afternoon red point events (1.30pm)

21 Dec	1-session pairs
28 Dec	Festival of Bridge Gourmet Pairs
4 & 11 Jan	New Year Teams
18, 25 Jan, 1 Feb	Dinner Pairs
8 & 15 Feb	Cavendish Pairs
22 Feb	1-session Pairs
1, 8 & 15 Mar	Day Swiss Pairs
22 & 29 Mar	1-session events
5, 12 Apr	Win entry to Good Friday Pairs
19 Apr	1-session pairs
26 Apr - 24 May	<b>GNOT (Gold Points!)</b>

---

---

## Top Scorers

This list shows the top monthly scores for green point session in the last quarter.

## September

### MONDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Ted Wynberg & Claire Sasson	65.3
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
John Benecke & Max Reefman	65.3
<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Jann Finlay & Maureen Duesbury	75.7
<i>Night</i>	
Freda Banner & Robin Ho	61.2
<i>Night (Supervised)</i>	
Andrew & KwaiSee Barker	62.7

### TUESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Tina Strickland & Ceiny Maybury	65.8
<i>Morning Supervised</i>	
Trish Rogers & Barbara Farrell	68.2
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Sam Chang & Mary Hsu	69.8
<i>Night (Spit Rd room)</i>	
Sue Craig & Robert Fletcher	69.0
<i>Night (Ourimbah room)</i>	
Aleks Milovanovic & Claire Sasson	70.2

### WEDNESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Silla Bradley & Pat Clark	64.3
<i>Morning (supervised)</i>	
Edith Sutton & Jacqui Ingram	65.4
<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Pauline Hatherley & Clio Hertzberg	69.9
<i>Night (supervised)</i>	
Greg Covarr & Fergus Herbert	77.1

### THURSDAY

<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Ruth Longworth & Madeline Stevens	81.4
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Mukundrai Patel & Cath Whiddon	65.1

---

---

(6)

<i>Night</i>	
Doug Dalling & Kim Dalling	65.2

### FRIDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Helen Butts & Sally Tyrrell	65.4
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Barbara Huber & Debbie Quirk	69.3
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Helen Hancock & Noely Pauline	67.3
<i>Night</i>	
Marjorie Nicklin & Anne Morris	63.8

### SATURDAY

<i>Afternoon</i>	
Bernard & Pamela Ansiewicz	65.0

## October

### MONDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Judy Webster & Sylvia Reynolds	67.8
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Derek Harris & Camille Farrell	71.5
<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Carole Tesoriero & Phil Maher	72.9
<i>Night</i>	
Barbara Gassmann & Griet Smuts	63.0
<i>Night (Supervised)</i>	
Greg Hay & John Martin	71.0

### TUESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Louise Kobler & Yvonne Le Fort	63.1
<i>Morning Supervised</i>	
Barbara Farrell & Trish Rogers	68.3
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Doreen Payne & Norma Swain	68.6
<i>Night (Spit Rd room)</i>	
Griet Smuts & Ceiny Maybury	67.0
<i>Night (Ourimbah room)</i>	
Georges & Barbara Gassmann	66.4

### WEDNESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Lidia Punturiero & Tony Bowden	65.4

---

---

(7)

<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Rita Flynn & Elaine Murphy	69.8
<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Max Reefman & John Benecke	65.6
<i>Night (supervised)</i>	
Fergus Herbert & Greg Covarr	73.3

### THURSDAY

<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Jane Armitage & Cia Benecke	69.1
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Corny Rodriguez & Pat Blair	65.2
<i>Night</i>	
Frances Garrick & Bruce Daglish	70.4
<i>Night (Intermediate)</i>	
Andrew Barker & KwaiSee Barker	72.3

### FRIDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Griet Smuts & Ceiny Maybury	65.5
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Judith Stefanek & Joan Norman	68.8
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Yvonne Le Fort & Louise Kobler	69.2
<i>Night</i>	
Elizabeth Fanos & George Finikiotis	68.2

### SATURDAY

<i>Afternoon</i>	
Alexander Cook & Claire Sasson	63.4

## November

### MONDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Don Miller & Griet Smuts	64.0
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Shirley Poole & Clare Stockdale	69.7
<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Clive Sergent & Betty Debney	59.6
<i>Night (Supervised)</i>	
Greg Hay & John Martin	67.5

### TUESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Claire Sasson & Griet Smuts	66.3

<i>Morning Supervised</i>	
Alison Mackey & Robyn Kennedy	67.5
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Bruce Noake & Lynn Trainor	66.1
<i>Night (Spit Rd room)</i>	
Alfred & Rae Stamp	72.0
<i>Night (Ourimbah room)</i>	
Barbara & Georges Gassmann	61.4

### WEDNESDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Mara Borovac & Juta Kerjan	63.9
<i>Morning (supervised)</i>	
Heather Condon & Carolyn Cliffe	63.5
<i>Afternoon Red Points</i>	

<i>Afternoon (Supervised)</i>	
Sandy Allen & Barbara Huber	64.7
<i>Night (supervised)</i>	
Margaret Hannes & Robin Edwards	70.5

### THURSDAY

<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Ruth Longworth & Madeline Stevens	65.7
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Bruce Noake & Vivienne McDonald	67.5
<i>Night</i>	
Kevin Ellwood & Gill Chambers	66.0
<i>Night (Intermediate)</i>	
Andrew & KwaiSee Barker	74.4

### FRIDAY

<i>Morning</i>	
Mizuho Okamoto & Audrey Hawkins	67.2
<i>Morning (Supervised)</i>	
Kyoko Brogdon & Doreen Wymer	67.5
<i>Afternoon</i>	
Tony Bowden & Lucette Devos	68.5
<i>Night</i>	
Janet Rowlatt & Bev Peters	67.6

### SATURDAY

<i>Afternoon</i>	
Cavell Mobbs & Sybil Curtis	65.5

# Bidding Forum

Moderated by Nick Hughes

This month's panellists include Derrick Browne & Colleen Pidcock from *Trumps*, internationals Ron Klinger & Kieran Dyke, plus Nick Fahrer from the Bridge Shop.

You are South in these hands. Choose your call then compare with the experts. *Trumps Standard and Pairs* scoring in all four.

All these hands are from recent books by the American writer, Marty Bergen. We've borrowed his comments.

## 1. North deals, Both vul

♠ 9 6 5  
♥ —  
♦ K 8 6 5 2  
♣ K 10 7 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	no	?
	CALL	VOTES	
	2♠	5	
	4♠	1	
	3♠	0	

Five for a void when you have an 8-card fit, right? Let's see: 6 + 5 = 11 TP, enough for 3♠. However, none of the panel bid that, with good cause.

Bergen: 2♠. A void = 5 only if you have plenty of trumps. A better estimate is to count a void as equal to the number of trumps. This hand is worth 6 + 3, enough for a single raise.

Dyke: 2♠. With only three trumps, the void isn't worth nearly as much as it would be with four or more.

Klinger: 4♠ (but only opposite a tolerant partner). 2♠ is certainly acceptable, but I must try to keep their hearts out.

Yes, I think Ron would bid 2♠ like the rest if the void were anywhere else.

Fahrer: 2♠, an easy problem to start with and will accept any game try that North makes.

Browne: 2♠, devaluing the void due to the poor trump support. This could be an underbid if partner has a well fitting hand (ie weak hearts).

Pidcock: 2♠. Am I old-fashioned?

Yes, but not this time.

We say a void is worth 5 points with a fit because it's worth more than an ace. If East leads the ♥A, he'll be crestfallen at the sight of dummy, as your partner casually calls for the ♠5.

However, it's not so good if they lead trumps. Sooner or later, partner's heart losers will be exposed, hence the devaluation.



Kieran Dyke

## 2. East deals, Nil vul

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
no	3♥	no	1♥
		no	?
	CALL	VOTES	
	pass	5	
	4♥	1	

Hand evaluation again. 13 HCP, a good suit plus one for the doubleton makes 14 TP. Partner shows 11-12 TP. That means we have 25-26 points between the two hands, enough for game. Yet most of the panel passed! Why?

Bergen: Pass. After a limit raise, never pass with a singleton, but this is a clear pass. 5332, no aces. Game is odds against.

Dyke: Pass if 3♥ is a limit raise (or worse). Hard to imagine that all of these soft high cards are useful.

Klinger: Pass (assuming 3♥ is a limit raise)

Fahrer: Pass. Usually I accept most invitations but this ace-less hand is going nowhere.

Browne: Pass, those minor suit holdings are uninspiring. But, opposite a conservative partner or weak opponents, try for game.

Don't agree with this last bit. If you keep compensating for an underbidding partner, he will never



Derrick Browne

(9)

learn. Against weak opponents, bid normally and get your good score by taking more tricks than everyone else.

Pidcock: 4♥. Presuming that the double raise is limit (11-12), I'm prepared, with my doubleton to accept the invitation.

## 3. North deals, EW vul

♠ 8 3 2  
♥ A Q 5 4 3  
♦ K  
♣ 8 7 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	1♦	no	1♥
	2♦	2♠	?
	CALL	VOTES	
	pass	3	
	3♦	3	
	dble	0	

At first glance, this looks like an easy pass.

However, the opponents seem happy in 2♠, your spades are weak and your side is not vulnerable. Worth a bid?

Bergen: 3♦. A stiff honour is okay to raise a 6-card suit.

Dyke: Pass. No hint of a fit to work with. If he bids 3♦ I'll be happy.

Klinger: 3♦. We would double as North with three hearts, so 2♦ should be 6+ with a likely 2-2-6-3 pattern, maybe even seven diamonds. To be more encouraging, I'd double (takeout) first.

Fahrer: Pass. The three small spades in my



Marty Bergen

hand say defend and partner still hasn't passed the hand out.

Browne: Pass, although gambling on a double is tempting at matchpoints; hoping to take it one light for 200, a potential top board in a partscore battle.

Pidcock: 3♦. With only five cards I'm not going to repeat hearts. I'll choose 3♦ rather than pass. This leaves it open for partner to bid 3♥ if holding 3-card support.

*I think the vulnerability suggests bidding. Even if partner goes two off for -100, you will usually score okay because the bad luck for you means they would almost certainly have made 2♠ for +110.*

### 4. West deals, Nil vul

- ♠ A 3
- ♥ 9 8
- ♦ K Q J 3
- ♣ 9 7 5 3 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
no	1NT	3♥	?

Double would be penalty in Trumps Standard.

CALL	VOTES
3NT	5
Dbf	1

*If East had passed, South has a routine raise to 3NT. You still want to be in game after the overcall but East's long heart suit could be a problem in 3NT. Should we just cross our fingers and bid 3NT anyway? Most of the panel thought so.*

Bergen: 3NT here doesn't need a stopper. Partner nearly always has one. If not, the suit might block.

Dyke: 3NT. Partner usually has a heart honour. If RHO's hearts were solid he probably would have kept quiet.

Klinger: 3NT. Same as I'd bid without interference. Double is penalty? Not with me, but I wouldn't double for takeout with this hand either.

Fahrer: A good problem, I want to be in game, but which one? I can't double for takeout with such short spades, so will take a gamble with 3NT, hoping partner holds a slow heart stopper and some other useful cards. Passing could be right but we could easily miss a better score from playing the hand.

Browne: 3NT, hoping partner has hearts covered.

Pidcock: Double. I loathe doubling for penalties without tricks in trumps; however pass seems very wimpish.

*3NT will fail if East has solid hearts. That's possible but unlikely. If it happens, that's bridge. More likely is for East to have a suit like ♥KQT7643, in which case partner can stop the suit and probably shut East of the play. Then 3NT will probably make easily.*



Ron Klinger



Colleen Pidcock

### Make Them Suffer

Here's a hand from a recent session – 14 December – of the Wednesday night Swiss Pairs.

- |      |              |              |  |
|------|--------------|--------------|--|
| W/NS | ♠ Q 7        |              |  |
|      | ♥ A J 7 6    |              |  |
|      | ♦ K J 8 6    |              |  |
|      | ♣ J 9 3      |              |  |
|      | ♠ J 9 5 4    | ♠ A 10 3 2   |  |
|      | ♥ Q 9 8 2    | ♥ K 10       |  |
|      | ♦ —          | ♦ A Q 10 7 3 |  |
|      | ♣ A Q 10 6 5 | ♣ 7 4        |  |
|      | ♠ K 8 6      |              |  |
|      | ♥ 5 4 3      |              |  |
|      | ♦ 9 5 4 2    |              |  |
|      | ♣ K 8 2      |              |  |

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alex		Robin	
no	1♦	no	2♦
?			

North was expecting a quiet ride in 2♦. After all, both his opponents had passed. However, look what happened.

Alexander Cook doubled 2♦ for takeout on his 9-count. Robin Ho could have bid 4♠ and scored +420 on their combined 22-count for a good score. Instead she looked at the vulnerability and decided to play for penalties.

After the ♣10 lead, 2♦x was held to four tricks for -1100.

In bridge, it helps to be sadistic. The greatest pleasure is squeezing doubled vulnerable undertricks from a hapless declarer.

### Win a book!

Below are the questions for the bidding forum in the next issue of *What's Trumps*. Have a go at them and hand in your answers to Derrick or Nick. If your answers are the first to match the bids of Marty Bergen, you'll win one of his books. Likewise, if you are the first to match Ron Klinger's answers, you win a Klinger book.

Have a go!

#### Hand E, E/Both

- ♠ A 9 7 6 5 3 2
- ♥ 6 2
- ♦ K 8
- ♣ J 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		no	?

#### Hand F, E/Both

- ♠ —
- ♥ K 10 8 6
- ♦ 9 7 5 2
- ♣ A Q 9 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♣	?

#### Hand G, W/Nil

- ♠ 6 4
- ♥ K 9 5 4 2
- ♦ 8 7 6 2
- ♣ 8 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	dbl	1♠	?

#### Hand H, E/NS

- ♠ A Q 8
- ♥ K J 4
- ♦ A 9 4
- ♣ 7 6 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♣	?

# What is my hand worth?

By Nick Hughes

As our game advances, we learn that there is more to counting than 4-3-2-1 for honours and 5-3-1 for shortages. Sometimes game makes with a lot fewer than 26 points. Luck can be a big factor – such as a few finesses working, a suit breaking – but more important is the fact that some points are better than others. Here are some tips for adjusting the way you evaluate your hand

Some of these tips are from recent books from American Marty Bergen:

## Declarer play is easier if the points are evenly split between declarer and dummy

13 opposite 13 is heaps better than 22 opposite 4 points. 26 points will usually give you a good shot at 3NT. However, your chances are reduced if one of you has a very weak hand. For instance

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2NT	no	?	

♠ 9 8 5 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ 10 5 ♣ Q 8 7 4 3

2NT shows 21-22. Should you raise? Maybe not. Unless partner can make something out of your clubs, 3NT will probably fail.

The problem is the lack of entries to your hand. If you had a few aces and kings, partner would certainly be able to establish clubs. Also, partner would be able to take more finesses.

**4 cards + 4 honours = 5 cards;**  
**5 cards + 4 honours = 6 cards.**

Short chunky suits are good to overcall or rebid. A 4-card suit like ♠AKJT is worth an

(12)

overall. ♥AQJT4 is good enough for a weak two opening, even if vulnerable.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	no	1♠	no
3♥	no	?	

♠ AKQJ ♥ 10 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ 9 7 6 3 2

Bid 3♠. Partner might be able to bid 3NT. If she raises to 4♠, pass and hope for the best. It might go quite well!

## Add half a point for a 10 in HTx or better.

AJTx is a great suit. 10s by themselves aren't so great but they are golden with higher honours. Take this suit:

West	East
♥ Q 7 6	♥ K 4 3

Unless you are very lucky or the opponents are very helpful, you will make exactly one heart trick. The guy with the ♥A will use it to chop off a royal head. If we give one of us the ♥10, it's different:

West	East
♥ Q 10 6	♥ K 4 3

Now we make two tricks whenever South has the ♥J. This is a 50% chance so your expectation is 1½ tricks. Half a trick more!

So what? There are 40 HCP in the deck and 13 tricks to fight over. On average, 3 HCP fall on each trick. Tone this down because of long suits and trumping, then agree that one point will get you half a trick. Then you will open a 16-18 1NT on this:

♠ A 6 5 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♥ Q J 5 ♣ K Q 10

15 + 1 = 16. Those useful 10s are golden.

## Add a point for 4 aces; Always open 3 aces, even 4333

"Aces and spaces" is a silly old mantra. The 4-3-2-1 scale undervalues aces – and 10s! – and overvalues queens and jacks –

(13)

henceforth to be known as quacks.

## Change the way you count points when your 1♥ or 1♠ opening is raised.

"If partner raises your major suit, add 1 for a 5-card suit (if you also have a singleton) 3 for a 6-carder, 5 for a 7-carder. Use 3-2-1 for shortages. Opposite a 5-carder (or 5-5), add 1 point for a picture in the suit (unless stiff). Add 2 points for Axx or Kxx opposite a 6-carder."

Phew! This involved advice is also from Bergen. I'll take him at his word and give it a whirl. Here is his example:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	no	1♠	no
3♠	no	?	

♠ K 8 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ 8 ♣ A 5 4

"Could be grand slam. 10 HCP + 5 for your supported 7-carder + 1 for ♥K + 3 for shape (3-2-1 scale) = 19."

## Upgrade jackless hands. A strong NT with no jacks is worth a point more.

As we know AJT is a great suit but AJx isn't.

West	East
♥ AJ 10	♥ 7 6 5

You expect 1¾ tricks. By repeating the finesse you will make two tricks unless North has the ♥K and queen.

If we take away the ♥10, the expectation is 1¼ tricks, half a trick less!

♥ AJ 8	♥ 7 6 5
--------	---------

You work it out! We covered this earlier. Now compare AJx with KQx

West	East
♥ K Q 8	♥ 7 6 5

Now your expectation is 1½ tricks. AJx and KQx are both counted as 5 HCP but KQx is definitely better. You have *honours in combination* a definite plus factor.

## Smile on friendly honours

♠xx, ♥AQJx is better than ♠Ax, ♥QJxx because all your honours are helping each other. If partner has four small hearts, you will three or four tricks depending on which opponent has the ♥K. With the second holding, you could be held to one (the ♠A!) or two on a moderately bad day.

## Downgrade factors

No aces, too many jacks, no useful 10s or 9s, honours in short suits, no 5-card suit, etc. Subtract about half a point for each of these flaws. In particular ...

## Beware of short honours!

Honours in short suits are a real turn-off. Bergen suggests

-1 for QJ, Qx, Jx, stiff K, Q, J  
 -½ for AJ, KQ, KJ, stiff A

Assuming you open most 12 point hands, do you open this:

♠ A J 10 ♥ Q 10 9 3 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A 10 3 ?

Only 11 HCP but worth 1♥. No flaws and plenty of pluses. 2 aces, ♠AJT is worth 1 extra point, just on its own. ♥QT932 is a useful suit. That ♥9 is golden. Some people routinely "add a point for a 5-card suit" but that is too crude. Some 5-card suits are not worth much.

How about this:

♠ Q 4 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ K 4 3 2 ?

Pass. Ugly hand. No intermediates, short majors, no aces, no 5-card suit, ♠Q4 is a big turn-off.

Get the picture?

### 2006 Daily Bridge Calendar

This is the publication that will tease, torment and tantalise you with a bridge tip or problem for every day.

A couple of years ago we featured a tip by Australia's own Ron Klinger, who is again a contributor this year. This time we feature a problem from another leading bridge author, Eddie Kantar. Be warned - this is one of the toughest, or at least most unusual, problems in this year's calendar!

#### The Hand of a Lifetime

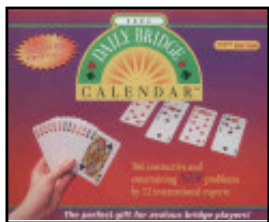
South was Henri Svarc who for many years was one of the best French players. See if you can find the play he made to bring in this slam. Think imaginatively... and then some! Plan the play.

North  
♠ A 4 3 2  
♥ A 10 5 4 3 2  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ —

South  
♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7 5  
♥ K  
♦ J 7 6 3  
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	4♠
Pass	6♠	All pass	

The lead is clearly a singleton so you had better rise with the ♦A as West figures to have the missing trump. Now that you have overcome that hurdle, how are you going to get rid of all your diamonds?



Well, you can cash your ♥K and if hearts break 3-3, you can set up the suit with one ruff. But you need two dummy entries to pull this off and only one is in plain sight, the ♠A. Henri found two! Do you see the entry Henri saw? It was the ♠6! Yes, I know you don't have the ♠6. They do and they must pay!

North  
♠ A 4 3 2  
♥ A 10 5 4 3 2  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ —

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

South  
♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7 5  
♥ K  
♦ J 7 6 3  
♣ —

At trick two Svarc crossed to the ♥K and led the ♠5. When West played the ♠6, he let him hold the trick! Now what could West play? If he leads a heart, Svarc can set up the hearts using the ♠A as the entry to get to the hearts. If he leads a club, Svarc ruffs in dummy and is again able to set up the hearts while the ♠A is over there.

Did you figure this one out? If you did, cheers, cheers, and more cheers. And yes, if West had bid 5♣ over 4♠, East-West might wind up in 7♣ doubled down two (unless North finds a low heart lead, then it is down three). Of course, this assumes that North doesn't get carried away and bid 7♠ (if he does, West would probably want to bid 8♣).

Question to West: What do you call an 8-card suit? Answer: Trump! Of course, South knew the answer to that one, too. *Trumps sells the Daily Calendar (\$27.50) and also a Bridge Players' wall calendar (\$18.95).*

## Timetable

### Open Duplicates

	Morn	Aftern	Night
Mon	10.10		7.30 *
Tues	10.10 *	1.30 *	7.30 *
Wed	10.10	1.30	7.30
Thurs		1.30 *	7.30 *
Fri	10.10	1.30 *	7.30
Sat		1.30	

There is a red point section available on **Wednesdays** at 1.30; pre-entry is advisable.

### \* Duplicate with talk

Mon			7.15
Tues	10am	1.30	7.20
Wed	10		
Thurs		1.20	7.20
Fri		1.20	
Sat	10am		

### Supervised duplicates

Mon	10am	1.30	7.15
Tues	9.45		
Wed	9.45	1.30	7.15
Thurs	10am		
Fri	10am		

Supervised duplicates all commence with a talk.

We run normal sessions on most public holidays, but there is a special program at year end.

*What's Trumps* is mailed to our 1000 members (plus others) 4 times a year.

#### Sample advertising rates:

Full page \$165, 1/2 \$90, 1/4 \$50, eighth \$30. (10% off for members)

### Lost your partner?

Call Derrick at the club on 9969 5959. We may have just the right person!

## Benefits

### of Trumps membership

- A quarterly bulletin of news, views and tips
- Save \$2 on all duplicate sessions at Trumps. Discounts on lessons and some holidays
- Reciprocal membership rights at Rose Bayside, Social Bridge, Turramurra, Killara & Narrabeen
- Special events and holidays for members
- 10% discount at Billy's Chinese and at Taste of India
- Members' phone book
- We pay your ABF fees if you make us your home club.

### Rights and duties

- We cater for all levels of player
- Use the suggestion box in the main foyer
- Greet your opponents at the start of the round
- 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! We recommend: Billy's Chinese, Tan Tawan Thai, Tran's Restaurant, Taste of India, Siam Sydney, Noodle Inn, Star Fusion and Paton Pidcock Real Estate.



# Lessons ...

## Beginner lessons

You know what a great game bridge is, so please spread the word to your friends! The new edition of our book lays the foundation for the modern game in a clear, logical manner. Your referrals are our main source of new recruits - thanks!

Next courses:

*Monday afternoons, 1.30-3.30pm, from 9 January to 6 Feb*

*Monday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm, from 9 January to 6 Feb*

Beginners' graduation dinner is scheduled for 6pm on Wed night 8 Feb. We then have two additional courses this term:

*Friday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm, from 10 February to 10 March*

*Monday afternoons, 1.30-3.30pm, from 6 March to 3 April*

We are repeating our special beginners' offer: \$59 for the course, includes the textbook and one practice session.

## Improver training

Ideal for anyone who loved the Improvers' course and wants to consolidate afterwards, here is training in your openings and responses, notrump bidding and Stayman, slams and Blackwood, interposes and more, plus declarer play and defence! Thursdays at 10am, 19 Jan to 16 Feb. \$11/\$14 per session.

## Advanced training

With John Newman. This term's theme is Declarer Play. Saturday mornings from 11 Feb, at 10am (or come 9.45am for revision). \$11/\$14 per training session, including eight hands plus notes. For more information, call John on 9888 3903.

## Coaching

With Derrick or John, 3 weeks. 13 Feb: Assessment. 20, 27 Feb: Coaching. \$11/\$14 each.

## Intermediate course

Eight Monday nights at 7.30, 13 Feb to 3 or 10 April. Based on the forthcoming book, *Intermediate Bridge*. \$80/\$95 for all 8 weeks, or \$11/\$14 per lesson. Topics include Reverses, Transfers, Unusual 2NT, Negative doubles, Penalty doubles and other important tools. Main teacher Derrick Browne.

## Improver lessons

With Colleen. Our most popular course, refreshing and consolidating the basics Decision making, Stayman, Suit bidding, Blackwood, Interposes, Pre-empts, play. 10am Thursdays 23 Feb to 13 April. \$80/\$95 for all 8 weeks, or \$11/\$14 per lesson.

## Doubles workshop

With John. Sunday 26 February, from 10am. Expand your use of doubles - and learn when to pass a takeout double to convert it to penalties! \$22/\$27 includes lunch.

## Bidding & play wkshop

With Derrick. Sunday 12 March, 10am - 3.15pm. Lots of hands, with tips & analysis to help you improve. \$22/\$27 incl. lunch.