



# Trumps Update August 2021

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When the nation is not in lockdown, Australia's premier series of bridge events is surely the Summer Festival of Bridge, for which thousands of players descend on Canberra each year in January.

In this article, we hark back to the 2005 iteration of this event. In the Seniors' Championship, Klinger prevailed over Noble in the final. A curious aside is that the Newman team (John Newman, Lynn Kalmin, Ellie Urbach, Peter Buchen, Andrew Markovics and Henry Christie) beat both Noble and Klinger in the semi-finals of the Seniors but due to a 3 VP fine for a mobile phone ringing during a session were relegated into third spot instead of playing in the final.

The 286 pair Swiss Pairs Championship was won by Stephen Burgess with the late Bobby Richman. John Newman played in this event also (finishing 7<sup>th</sup>, partnering Derrick Browne), with the following hand played by John (West) leading to a big pickup against the datums (averages).

## East Deals, Nil Vulnerable

♠ 8 7 6  
♥ A K 10 8 6  
♦ 3  
♣ J 10 8 3

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

♠ 2  
♥ Q 9  
♦ Q 8 6 5  
♣ A K Q 9 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
X (neg)	3C	1D	2C
3S	Pass	3D	Pass
5S	X	4S	5C
		All pass	

South would have had 11 easy tricks if allowed to play in 5C (after drawing trumps, two diamond losers are ruffed in dummy while one is discarded on dummy's hearts). Against the actual contract of 5Sx, North started with a top heart then switched to a club, won by South. How should South continue?

In a suit contract, declarer's usual task before drawing trumps is to ruff in the "short hand", meaning the hand with fewer trumps, in this case East. To thwart this line, South led a trump.

That was intelligent thinking - but not the right move this time. Why not? The menacing diamond suit in dummy should be the big worry for the defenders. If declarer is able to set up that suit, it will provide plenty of discards for any losers, thereby removing the need for declarer to scramble tricks by ruffing.

And so it was. John won the trump switch in hand then played to the diamond ace. Next he ruffed a diamond high (with the SK) to prevent any risk of being overruffed in case North had no more diamonds, as was the case. A trump to dummy's S9 followed, then another diamond, again ruffed high. Now a spade over to dummy's SA drew North's last trump, while simultaneously getting the lead to dummy to run the diamonds for 11 tricks.

The defenders could, however, have defeated the contract if they had realised that the key to the hand was to prevent the diamonds from being established. At Trick 3 (or even Trick 2), the defenders must play a second round of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff even though this violates the usual principle of *preventing* declarer from ruffing in the short hand. North would then have had more trumps than dummy so it would not have been possible for declarer to draw trumps finishing in dummy in order to enjoy the diamonds, because North would still have a trump left.



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

## West Deals, NS Vulnerable

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

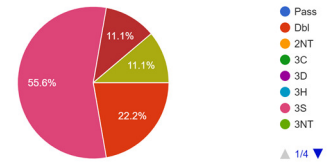
2S\* ?

♠ Q  
♥ K 9 4  
♦ K  
♣ AKQJ 9 8 6 3

Votes by our panellist	
CALL	VOTES
3S	4
Dbl	2
5C	1

2S\* = weak two in spades

Bidding problem  
9 responses



Player's votes collected through trumps

**Giura:** 3S. Western cuebid in my book [*asking for spade stopper for 3NT*]. Yes I take the risk that partner will bid 3NT with a cover in spades and we'll go down on diamond lead; or partner might be void in clubs and no transportation to dummy.

*Taking this risk is sensible. I often see less experienced players worry about every eventuality. The 2S bidder presumably doesn't have another long suit, so partner figures to have some diamond length.*

**Klinger:** 3S. We do not play this as Michaels but as asking partner to bid 3NT with a spade stopper. Prepared to risk the diamond situation. Partner might have something in diamonds. Much too strong for 3C. (For Michaels we play [2S] : 4C or 4D as showing that minor and hearts, at least 5-5 and no worse than 5 losers.)

*Yes that is a very good treatment for 4C and 4D, as it's quite likely that after a 2S bid by your opponent, that you hold a strong two suited hand. This is known as "Leaping Michaels".*

**Hughes:** 3S. Should be a stopper ask, not Michaels. There is a case for 4C & 4D to be leaping Michaels [*not suitable on this hand though*], but Trumps Standard doesn't incorporate this just yet.

**Rigal:** 3S, stopper ask. I play Leaping Michaels as does the world, so my call is easy - as to what comes next, who can say?

**Zines:** 3S. If you play Leaping Michaels over pre-emptive bids as I do, strong two-suiters can be shown here via 4C/4D = C/D + hearts [*the other major*]. Double would show more of a three-suiter. So a cuebid of 3S should ask for a spade stopper. I'll try that. Of course a diamond card would be nice too, but 3NT looks our best chance if partner can bid it. I'll raise 3H to 4H (with some trepidation) as 5C looks a long way off.

*5C isn't that far off, it will probably make opposite queen of hearts and a red ace, for example.*

**Fahrer:** 5C - 8 card suits are trumps always, and never put down as dummy

*But as it's match-points scoring, 5C making may lose out to all those other pairs who bid 3NT and make 10 or more tricks. Although on the actual hand (see below), Nick was prescient, in theory 3NT can't make.*

**Browne:** Double. This looks like a suitable hand for an immediate bid of the enemy suit (thus 3S) if you play this as a stopper ask for 3NT, which seems to be popular amongst experts over an enemy 2H or 2S (whereas Michaels showing majors is popular in other situations). Having said that, I am going to opt instead for a takeout double, planning to bid 3S next round to seek 3NT, because this implies tolerance for the other major (hearts). I'll be interested to see what other panellists have to say.

*Another advantage of doubling and then bidding 3S (of if too high, rebidding 5C) is that it implies a very big hand, while still getting the message across that a spade stopper is sought. An immediate 3S cue bid doesn't need to be this strong, just a solid 7 card minor with a little bit of stuff in the other two suits. This hand is better. Partner had ♠AKT3 ♥A752 ♦987 ♣75, so 6C was easy, losing just the ace of diamonds.*

### 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 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)

## Top Rated

	Name	Rating
1	Derrick Browne	68.03
2	Alessandro Gado	66.89
3	Kerry Boytell	65.71
4	Eric Lippey	65.61
5	Alex Kemeny	64.55
6	Neil Williams	64.14
7	Kevin Murray	63.12
8	Barbara Gassmann	62.99
9	Tina Strickland	62.90
10	Rob Holgate	62.77
11	Cia Benecke	62.30
12	Fay Cooney	62.09
13	Sue Robinson	62.03
14	Ceiny Maybury	62.01
15	Marjorie Thomas	61.93
16	Kim Dalling	61.80
17	Vivienne McDonald	61.60
18	Kevin Ellwood	61.40
19	Michael Kidd	61.29
20	Tim Rickard	61.03

## Most improved Rating

		Old	New	Gain
1	Jenny Harley	48.61	49.37	0.76
2	Elizabeth Neil	59.81	60.57	0.76
3	Eric Lippey	65.25	65.98	0.73
4	Kerry Boytell	65.36	66.08	0.72
5	Margaret Scott	49.36	50.00	0.64
6	Jamal Yazdanparast	57.39	58.00	0.61
7	Suzie Wall	54.08	54.64	0.56
8	Lydia Gibbs	58.38	58.84	0.46
9	Judith McPhee	57.04	57.43	0.39
10	Virstine Yazdanparast	58.16	58.55	0.39

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

## ONLINE CONGRESS!

North Shore Bridge Club  
 Online winter congress  
 7-8 August on RealBridge  
 (see our facebook post for  
 more information)



StepBridge.com.au

## Trumps StepBridge

1pm Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
 August. Refer to email for  
 registration.



## Online Bridge

Currently we are running  
 online bridge on BBO:

10am Tuesdays

7pm Tuesdays

1pm Wednesdays

1pm Saturdays

## Funbridge

Search for Trumps under  
 Exclusive Tournaments. We  
 can provide the password.



## Masterpoint Promotions

Madeleine Gray

Bronze National

Peter Walsh

Bronze Local

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

## Assign the blame

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

### West Deals, All Vulnerable

♠ K Q 8 7 6 3 2  
 ♥ A 2  
 ♦ 8 6 4  
 ♣ 6

♠ ———  
 ♥ J 10 6 4  
 ♦ AK 9 2  
 ♣ K J 10 9 7

♠ 10 4  
 ♥ K Q 8  
 ♦ J 10 7 5  
 ♣ Q 8 4 2

♠ 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
1D	1S	Pass	1C ?

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

Send your answer through this link:  
<https://forms.gle/TAic68RVZRCCKXxvP7>

# BBO Tips

Ensure your profile is up to date including your first (preferred) name and surname.

Use the “confirm” feature to avoid the need to request UNDOs. On your computer (or similar procedure on other devices), login to BBO, then click on the Account tab at right, then click on Settings at the top, then turn on (drag to right) the “Confirm bids” and “Confirm cards” buttons. Now after specifying your proposed call each time, you will need to click OKAY; and to confirm which card you play each time, you click it twice. Given that you should have activated these Confirm features, the director will usually not accept requests for UNDOs (if not granted by your opponents) as they are only for genuine misclicks by the fingers (mechanical errors), which Confirm should eliminate.

“Self-alert” your own calls. In the BBO online tournaments, you alert YOUR OWN bids. You can write a short explanation in the box under your call, before completing the call. Partner cannot see it but the opponents can. If you forget to alert an artificial bid, double-click your bid and enter a late explanation. Do not alert by chatting to "Table". Pretty much anything can be alerted, even something obvious like a negative double; no harm in alerting, partner cannot see the alert if done as explained above. Even 2C Stayman in an uncontested auction could be alerted/explained, although at the club it is not alertable. Remember, do not alert by chatting to "Table". Partner CAN see that.

In the first screen shot below, North, holding five spades, is about to respond to partner's 1NT opening with a transfer bid of 2H. Before clicking on 2H (or after this but before clicking the OKAY button as mentioned in Point One), North has typed **5+ spades** in the area shown by the red arrow (slightly obscured by the other available bids in this screen shot). When your opponent makes an alert, it appears as shown in the second screen shot; 2H here isn't alertable, but there's no such thing as over-alerting in this format, you can see here that the hand shown at the bottom of screen wanted to make it clear to the opponents that the 2H bid was showing 9+ points but might be only as few as 4 hearts. If you have a different agreement e.g. 2H shows 10-12 TP, 4+ hearts, type that.

The left screenshot shows a bidding interface with a red arrow pointing to the 'Alert' field where '5+ spades' has been typed. The right screenshot shows an alert box for the bid 2♥ with the text '9+ points, 4 hearts' and an 'Explain' button.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣