



TRUMPS UPDATE

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Thanks given thoughts or turkey terrors? by Nick Hughes

I played this hand at Trumps on a recent Wednesday afternoon:

South Deals, Both Vulnerable

	♠ Q10742		
	♥ 106		
	♦ A2		
	♣ 8764		
♠ A86		♠ K5	
♥ KQ84		♥ 9752	
♦ 7643		♦ Q1098	
♣ 92		♣ AJ10	
	♠ J93		
	♥ AJ3		
	♦ KJ5		
	♣ KQ53		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ceiny	Sanae	Tina	Nick
			1NT
No	2♥	No	2♠
End			

This was the auction at most tables, though one table played in 1NT.

It looks a dull hand. 2♠ will make either eight or nine tricks. If West leads a red card, declarer has an easy path to at least nine tricks, given the ♣A is onside. Declarer will lose two trumps, a heart and a club for +140.

1NT will make eight tricks on the likely ♥4 lead.

What happened to me?

Ceiny led the ♣9 to the ace and a club came back. When I played a trump, Tina won the king to give partner the club ruff. Then came the ♥K to my ace.

What should I do now?

What I **actually** did was play a trump, so I made eight tricks for +110 and a poor score.

I did that because I was afraid to look like a turkey.

The alternative was to risk the contract by taking the diamond finesse instead of playing a trump.

Brave is to play a diamond to dummy's ace, followed by one back to the jack, with fingers crossed. When it wins, I can discard dummy's remaining heart on the ♦K for +140 and a good score. (A shared top)

The thinking is this: If I take the cowardly line of playing a trump, my +110 will be a bad score.

If I risk the finesse and it loses, I will get a bottom. My 20% board will turn into 0%.

However, if I finesse and it wins, I have changed my 20% into 70%. Seems good odds to me.

The clincher is that lead of the ♣9, which got the defence off to the best possible start. If every West would lead the ♣9, all the Souths would be in the same boat.

However, quite a few Wests led a red card, delivering nine easy tricks at their tables. Those lucky declarers were the ones I had to try to catch, even if that meant risking the contract.

Seems clear if you have an understanding partner. That is, one who can see that you were right to go down in a cold contract.

I just didn't have the guts.

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.

East Deals, NS Vulnerable

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

3C ?

♠ AK984

♥ AK65

♦ —

♣ A964

CALL	VOTES
4 ♣	3
Dbf	3
3 ♠	1

Giura: 3S. Double might get us into trouble if, say, partner bids 5D

Yes, a natural and simple approach, the risk being that partner dislikes spades but likes hearts, and passes, and we miss 4H, or passes and 4S is there. Without any complex agreements as discussed below, this approach seems sensible.

Fahrer: 4C. There is no good answer - double invites a diamond disaster, a suit overcall is also dangerous. I'll try the worst of all evils with 4C, ostensibly 5/5 in the majors.

Klinger: 4C. In theory this shows 5/5 in the majors, but it is the best approximation of my values and shape.

Zines: 4C should focus partner on the majors (would naturally prefer at least 5/5). I exclude a double because I have no diamonds. 3NT may of course win the money, but a little less in the way of HCP may be enough for game in a major.

This 4C bid is a form of the Michaels cue bid and is the "expert" action to show at least 5/5 in the majors and a strong hand. The downside here is that we don't have five hearts, but these panellists have rightly stated that if playing this convention, this is about the best you can do with the cards you've been dealt

Presumably the 3C bidder has 3 or less diamonds. Therefore, the other two players probably have at least ten diamonds. So if we double, partner may get excited and bid a lot of diamonds, expecting our double to have "tolerance" for all unbid suits. Let's hear from the doublers:

Browne :Double. This hand looks familiar; I think I saw it in a supervised session and, when asked what one should call, I went with whatever the player suggested (3S or double, though I might even have accepted an outlier action of 3NT or of 4C showing majors). Now that I must choose the call by myself, I pick double. I hate doing this with a void in an unbid suit, but if partner bids 3D or 4D I will bid spades, and if we finish in 5D my hand has useful high cards. The two flaws with a 3S overcall are that you may miss a better fit in the other major, and you are a tad strong.

Yes, Derrick, you have a good memory. The hand was played in a Grand National Open Teams session at Trumps in May, and those hands were reused in a supervised-play session after that.

Hughes: Double will be fine unless partner bids 5D. I'll take that risk. The other thought is 4C majors, hoping partner will bid 4D with equal length such as 2/2 or 3/3 in the majors, and asking me to choose whichever major I prefer.

Rigal: Double. Let's start with this. I plan to bid three spades over a three diamond response and I four spades over a four diamond response. If I hear anything else but five diamonds, we should know what to do - bid game over a minimum response, slam over anything else. Over a 5D response, 5NT as "partner pick a slam" is available. That should imply a dislike of diamonds, because with diamonds and slam values, I'd simply raise 5D to 6D.

See how all the experts knew there was a bit of a diamond risk in doubling, but all had a strategy for how to deal with it in the follow-up bidding. That's important, always try to plan out the auction and consider your alternatives. Especially if partner bids the thing you don't want to hear - my partners usually do that!

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

Cia Benecke **61%**

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!



DINE & DISCOVER
NSW

\$25 redeemable Monday to Sunday
Terms and conditions apply



Trumps/ABF membership

Welcome to all our newly joined members. Collect your nametag ABF membership card if you have not collected them.

For existing members with home club Trumps, new ABF cards are now available to be collected from the back foyer or see staff.

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)

Tuesday morning

- Valda Kol & Pam Pritchard

Tuesday afternoon

- Christine Algie & Margaret Mahony

Tuesday night

- Alex Kemeny & Alessandro Gado

Wednesday afternoon open

- Lydia Gibbs & Kevin Murray

Wednesday night

- Anne Morris & Gill Chambers

Thursday morning

- Mary McDonald & Lilly Wilson

Thursday afternoon

- Cia Benecke & Margaret Mahony

Friday afternoon

- Ceiny Maybury & Tina Strickland

Friday night

- Michael Draper & Margaret Draper

Saturday afternoon

- Timothy Bestelink & Jillian Raymond

Most improved Rating

		Old	New	Gain
1	Marcel Weyland	49.68	50.86	1.18
2	Leif Rasmussen	47.72	48.63	0.91
3	Mary McDonald	49.82	50.70	0.88
4	Helen Acton	54.40	55.24	0.84
5	Marlyn Vaughan	57.97	58.74	0.77
6	Margaret Mahoney	56.77	57.52	0.75
7	Lilly Wilson	51.29	52.00	0.71
8	Gay Suters	53.57	54.28	0.71
9	Christine Algie	57.47	58.15	0.68
10	Christine Meagher	39.32	40.00	0.68

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

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

Social duplicate at Baytree, Greenwich
2pm Tuesdays

Bridge at Manors, 6 Hale Rd
2pm Wednesdays

Duplicate at Monash, Ingleside 9.30am
Thursdays

Bridge @ Mosman Rowers
1pm Thursdays



Lessons & events

Beginners 7pm Mondays from 19 July **or**
10am Wednesdays from 21 July.

Beginners Card Play
7pm Thursdays from 10 June.

Improvers Lessons
7pm Mondays till 21 June.

Intermediate Lessons 10 am
Wednesdays till 16 June.

Trumps June Pairs (Red points)
1.30pm Fridays to 4 – 25 June.



Masterpoint Promotions

Enid Taylor	Bronze Regional
Bryan Meagher	Regional
Dave McLeod	Regional
Angela Mullighan	Silver Local
Sue Dickinson	Club
Barbie Ross	Club
Pip Pritchett	Club

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

Winter Teams

10am Sunday 4 July

You are invited to play in our annual Winter Teams congress.

Register via www.nswba.com.au.
or contact us if you are looking for partner/
Team mates

What to bid?



Choose your call then compare with expert's (published next month's edition). Trumps Standard and Pairs scoring.

West Deals, NS Vulnerable

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1H X 3H* ?

♠ K 9 6
♥ A 8 3
♦ A 7 6 5
♣ 9 7 3

3H* = weak, 4 card raise

Send your answer through this link:

<https://forms.gle/yUTXmUKfaiaw7M6p7>

Timetable

Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon		1.20*	
Tues	9.50*	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 1.20pm Fridays.

Supervised

Mon	9.50*	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	(lessons)		
Thurs	9.50*		
Fri	10am*		
Sat	10am*		

*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on page 4 for other session time)

We run normal sessions on most public holidays, but there is a special program at year end and Good Friday / Easter.

Benefits

Of Trumps membership

- A monthly update of news, views and tips
- Save \$3 on duplicate sessions at and lessons at Trumps
- Reciprocal membership rights at Mosman Rowers Trumps Bridge Group, Bridge @ The Manly Club, Social Bridge, Turramurra, Killara & Narrabeen
- Special events for members
- 10% discount at Taste of India (closing late June!)
- 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: Mosman Rowers, The Manly Club, A Taste of India, Trans Restaurant, Thai Kanteen, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth village, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣