



Trumps Update August 2022

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Exploration the key by Derrick Browne

Partner opens 1♦ (the opponents are silent throughout), and you have the following hand:

NORTH (*you*)

♠ A Q J 2

♥ Q 10 6 5

♦ A 5

♣ A Q 6

NORTH (*you*)

♠ A Q J 2

♥ Q 10 6 5

♦ A 5

♣ A Q 6

SOUTH (*partner*)

♠ K 3

♥ A K 2

♦ J 10 9 8 7

♣ K 5 4

A new suit by responder is forcing, so there is no need to do more than a quiet 1♥ at this stage. Opener rebids 1NT. How should you proceed?

If opener has a bare minimum (12 or 13 points), you should stay out of slam. For some players, the 1NT rebid denies four spades, and you might now bid 4NT with this hand, as an invitation to slam (not Blackwood).

Another approach involves 2♣ Checkback, which over a notrump rebid by opener asks for more information (it says nothing about clubs). This elicits 3♦ from opener. The diamond rebid shows five cards there (and therefore denies four spades, given that opener has promised a balanced hand) and the jump to the 3-level shows better than a minimum, thus a 14-count.

Whatever your methods, you finish in 6NT. Now move yourself to the South seat to play the slam, on the ♣J lead:

SOUTH

1♦

1NT

3♦

All pass

NORTH

1♥

2♣

6NT

You have 11 top tricks, and if hearts divide 3-3 or if the ♥J is short, that provides an easy 12th trick (there is also the slim chance that East shows out on the first two rounds of hearts, marking West with the ♥J and allowing a finesse to be taken). Is our best bet to play hearts now to see if they are friendly?

The hearts are, indeed, our best hope, but they can wait. Win the club lead in hand and lead the ♦J, planning to run it unless West covers. If West plays a diamond honour, your problems will be over. And if West has doubleton honour or both the missing honours, you will succeed whatever West does.

As it happens, there is no such luck this time. You lose the diamond to East, who returns a diamond, with West showing out and throwing a club.

Even though the diamonds did not behave, you have done yourself no harm and may yet have done some good. By losing the trick you need to, you take away cards from the opponents so if you run off your winners they have fewer available discards and may be “squeezed”. As well as that, playing the other suits before you tackle the key suit (hearts) may provide valuable information.

Accordingly, you cash your black suit winners now. East discards diamonds on the second and third rounds of clubs, having started with a singleton club. On the third and fourth rounds of spades, West, who started with a doubleton, discards clubs (while declarer pitches diamonds).

Dummy now has only the four hearts left. Declarer wins the first two rounds of the suit with the A-K (high from the shorter holding) with both opponents following, and then plays a heart towards the Q-10 with West playing low. Should you play the queen, hoping the jack falls, or finesse the 10, hoping West has the jack as well?

Normally it would be better to the ♥Q, hoping the ♥J drops, but not this time. We know that East started with five diamonds (as West had only a singleton) and five spades (remember West showed up with only doubleton), as well as just one club. Therefore East started with only two hearts – and so has no hearts left. Declarer finesses the ♥10, knowing it will win.

NORTH (*you*)

♠ A Q J 2
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ A 5
♣ A Q 6

WEST

♠ 10 8
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ 2
♣ J 10 9 8 7 2

EAST

♠ 9 7 6 5 4
♥ 8 4
♦ K Q 6 4 3
♣ 3

SOUTH (*partner*)

♠ K 3
♥ A K 2
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ K 5 4

The Last Trump *by Banjo Patterson*

“You led the trump,” the old man said
With fury in his eye,
“And yet you hope my girl to wed!
Young man! your hopes of love are fled,
’Twere better she should die!

”My sweet young daughter sitting there,
So innocent and plump!
You don’t suppose that she would care
To wed an outlawed man who’d dare
To lead the thirteenth trump!

“If you had drawn their leading spade
It meant a certain win!
But no! By Pembroke’s mighty shade
The thirteenth trump you went and played
And let their diamonds in!

”My girl, return at my command
His presents in a lump!
Return his ring! For, understand,
No man is fit to hold your hand
Who leads a thirteenth trump!

“But hold! Give every man his due
And every dog his day.
Speak up and say what made you do
This dreadful thing—that is, if you
Have anything to say!”

He spoke. “I meant at first,” said he,
“To give their spades a bump,
Or lead the hearts; but then you see
I thought against us there might be,
Perhaps, a fourteenth trump!”

They buried him at dawn of day
Beside a ruined stump:
And there he sleeps the hours away
And waits for Gabriel to play
The last—the fourteenth trump.

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

South Deals, Both Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbl*	Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	?

Dbl = exactly 4 spades, some values

♠ 10 9 6 5 3
♥ 9 8
♦ K
♣ A J 10 8 3

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
Pass	6
2♠ or 3♦	1

I saw this hand played online by a player who is a bridge professional in Europe, who found a bid other than pass, leading to a good score. So I put it to the panel. Some were tempted to bid:

Browne: Pass, although it is very close to a 3♥ raise.

Zines: Pass. I would raise at IMPs (*where bidding making games is very important*) as partner should have more than just 6 good hearts in order to bid again opposite a passing partner.

Rigal: Pass. Once I passed the first double I elected to take the low road. When both opponents are bidding game seems a long way away.

I expected some complaints from the panel about the pass on the first round. 1♠, ignoring the 4 cards in spades shown on your right, might have been OK, on the basis that partner could have 3 of them. Or even 1NT; that singleton diamond king is a stopper, isn't it?

Fahrner: Pass. The bidding suggests the points are fairly evenly distributed around the table, so it's a part score hand. I'll pass noting my King of Diamonds could be worthless and West has promised a heart stopper.

Hughes: Pass. So partner has an opening hand with (*at least!*) six hearts. So what?

We would also pass twice with Jxxxx-xx-xx-Qxxx. How much better is this hand? Potentially, a lot.

Giura: Pass - with the majority!

So there you have it, the panel generally takes the generally good match-point approach of not stretching to tight games at this form of scoring. However, the lone dissenting voice is:

Klinger: 2♠ or 3♦. Whichever shows a strong raise to 3♥. Given my pass over East's double, partner will know I have only two hearts, low ones at that, since I could have redoubled to show Q-x or stronger, but that I have decent values for committing to 3♥. Not hard to imagine game opposite Ax-AQJxxx-QJxx-x or similar.

That is a very close guess to the actual North hand, which was A-A Q10 6 4 3 2 -J 9 4 2 -2. If you show any sort of support, partner bids on to 4♥ which needs a little luck but which made for a top.



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

Kerry Boytell **67%**

Congratulations!

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons

10am Wednesdays **or**
7.30pm Wednesdays.

Improvers' play

10am Fridays till 23 September

Learn 2-over1 then duplicate

7pm Thursdays

GNOT (Butler play as pair)

DAY - 1.20 for 1.30pm Friday to 2 September (no **26** Aug - see below)

NIGHT - 7 for 7.15pm Friday to 19 August

(+\$2/session, +normal table money)

Australia wide pairs

1.20 for 1.30pm Friday 26 August

Red Points

1.15pm Wednesdays (in August)

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays

7pm Fridays (per schedule)

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 @ The Manly club

- Brian Young & Helen Young

Tuesday morning

- Michael Bergheim & Eric Monty

Tuesday afternoon

- Lesley Murray & Kevin Murray

Tuesday night

- John Rendle & Carolyn Rendle

Wednesday afternoon

- Graham Blackman & Usha Modi

Thursday morning

- Yvonne Le Fort & Shirley Ferrier

Thursday @ Warringah bowling

- Mary Sifis & Bob Clayton

Saturday afternoon

- Robin Ho & Elizabeth Neil

Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Catherine Turner	51.16	52.24	1.08
2	Yvonne Bartels	56.04	56.96	0.92
3	Jeanette Beaumont	51.71	52.58	0.87
4	Cheryl Thomas	46.82	47.62	0.80
5	Alex Matthews	46.30	47.08	0.78
6	Jan Christie	43.69	44.45	0.76
7	Anthony Smuts	60.34	61.06	0.72
8	Rob Holgate	62.73	63.42	0.69
9	Carolyn Rendle	56.53	57.21	0.68
10	Catherine Drury	55.56	56.24	0.68

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

Canberra Mercure

Sun 11 to Wed 14 Sep from \$699pp



Top Rated

	Name	Ratings
1	Eric Lippey	67.06
2	Kerry Boytell	66.82
3	Alessandro Gado	66.79
4	Alex Kemeny	65.57
5	Kevin Murray	64.07
6	Neil Williams	63.87
7	Rob Holgate	63.42
8	Fay Cooney	63.17
9	Tim Trahair	62.82
10	Sue Robinson	62.66

(Members with ABF number who have played 13 times in the last six months are rated).



Masterpoint Promotions (July)

Deirdre Manning

Silver Local

Macaila Seaver

Graduate

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

What to bid?

Choose your call then compare with the experts (published in next month's edition). Standard bidding and Pairs scoring.

East Deals, Nil Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
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		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	Pass	?

♠	7 5 3
♥	J 10 5
♦	Q 7 3
♣	A K 8 7

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*	7pm*
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 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, Mosman Rowers, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣