



Trumps Update

November 2024

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Marko makes his mark

Derrick Browne

A Swiss event is like a ladder - the top two pairs play each other and so on. For a few years, Trumps ran a Swiss Pairs on Wednesday nights, and while the round was being scored up, expert panellists discussed the deals just played. Today's column features one such deal.

After your partner opens a 15-17 1NT, what is your strategy with this hand?

WEST

♠ 9 3
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ A 8
♣ 10 8 7 5 3

It seems normal enough to start with 2♣, Stayman, to uncover a possible heart fit. However, partner replies 2♦, denying a four-card major. Most players would now retreat to 2NT but Andrew Markovics with these cards ventured 3NT, explaining as he put down dummy: "I'm not averse to bidding game, and I like long suits"!

Contract: 3NT by East. **Lead:** ♠2

WEST

♠ 9 3
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ A 8
♣ 10 8 7 5 3



SOUTH

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 6 2
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ A J

Put yourself in the position of South. You elected to lead a spade (although a diamond would also have been sensible), and at notrumps with only two touching honours, the fourth highest, the ♠2, was the standard lead. Your partner, North, wins the ♠A (with declarer contributing the ♠8) and returns the ♠5, which declarer wins with the ♠K. What is your plan?

Think a moment before reading on.

If declarer started with only two spades, then your partner, North, started with five spades. In that case you must not play your ♠6 as this would block the suit, leaving you with only the Q-J in spades, thus with no small spade to get the lead to partner's other winner.

This was, indeed, the actual spade layout, so it was necessary for South to throw the ♠Q (or ♠J) under declarer's ♠K. The full hand was:

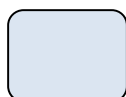
Contract: 3NT by East. Lead: ♠2

NORTH

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

WEST

♠ 9 3
 ♥ A 8 4 3
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ 10 8 7 5 3



EAST

♠ K 8
 ♥ K J 7
 ♦ Q J 4 2
 ♣ K Q 9 2

SOUTH

♠ Q J 6 2
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ 10 9 6 5 3
 ♣ A J

South asked how she could tell it was safe to throw her spade honour under the king. What if declarer had started with four spades, and throwing away the spade honour made declarer's fourth spade a winner?

Markovics pointed out that this was impossible: declarer's reply to Stayman denied four spades. On the other hand if declarer started with two spades it is imperative to unblock, while if declarer started with three spades it does not matter what you do.

However at the table, South failed to unblock the suit, playing low under the ♠K. Now declarer played a heart to dummy's ace, and led a club to the king, losing to the ♣A. South won and cashed the Q-J of spades on which two hearts were ditched from dummy, while declarer threw a club and a diamond from hand.

Given that clubs are breaking, declarer has eight tricks and if South were to lead a heart up to East's K-J, that would set up the ninth. So say instead that South leads a diamond, through dummy's A-8, hoping that North has the king.

Declarer could try the diamond finesse (playing low from dummy) for the ninth trick, but surely South would not have led diamonds and offered that choice if she had the ♦K, so declarer places the ♦K with North, and calls for dummy's ace.

Running the clubs leaves this position:

NORTH		
♠	—	
♥	Q10	
♦	K	
♣	—	
WEST		EAST
♠	—	♠ —
♥	8	♥ K J
♦	8	♦ Q
♣	8	♣ —
SOUTH		
immaterial		

On the lead of the ♣8 from West, North is squeezed. The ♦K must be kept (else declarer's ♦Q becomes a winner), but if North throws a heart, it is just as bad. Declarer will throw the now-useless ♦Q, then lead a heart from dummy, and North's ♥Q appears so there is not even any need to finesse, and nine tricks are made.



Four big days in one! Hat wearers on Cup Day. For Year 12 it was the last day of the HSC. Meanwhile director Alex (right) seemed to think he was here for US Election Day. Fortunately, no one came to reenact Guy Fawkes Day!



Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

You are 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 Fahrer from The Bridge Shop, Trumps member and world number one BBO bidding forum winner Alexander Cook, and NSW representatives Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

North Deals, EW Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♥	Dbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

♠ A J 10 7
♥ 7
♦ A K Q 4
♣ J 9 7 6

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
4♥	4
3♥	3
4♣	1

We have 15 points opposite an opening hand, but the opponents have butted in. Where to from here? The first group of the panel all have very similar thoughts.

Browne: 4♥. An “unnecessary jump” such as this is a splinter, showing a singleton or void in the bid suit and a good fit, allowing partner to decide on slam prospects.

Cook: 4♥. Splinter. This shows a heart singleton/void and strong club support. There are no wasted values in hearts as partner did not bid notrumps. If partner has the right cards, 6♣ could make.

Klinger: 4♥. Splinter raise of clubs.

Rigal: 4♥. Since slam makes facing as little as ♠xx ♥xx ♦Jxx ♣AKxxxx, and that’s just 8 points, can I do less than 4♥? If I had redwood (4♦) to ask for aces I’d do that.

Partners Nicoleta and Nick are together, with a slightly different take:

Giura: 3♥. Two doubles and a cue, over to you, partner!

Hughes: 3♥, postponing. 4♥ splinter won’t achieve much, while 4NT seems an overbid.

Given that the opponents stopped in 2♥, they may have just eight hearts, leaving partner with four, so perhaps partner can “see” our heart singleton. If so, maybe we don’t need to splinter – it’s often useful to show a shortage, but it does use up an extra level of bidding space. However, EW may be bidding conservatively due to the vulnerability, so partner might have just three hearts.

“Hand visualisation” is a good technique. Imagine a reasonable hand for partner based upon the bidding so far. North has fewer than four (or maybe even three??) spades (failure to support spades), some heart length but not strong stoppers (failure to bid NT) and over 11 points. Imagine ♠Kx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣AKxxx. If partner has just these ten points, even 6♣ has chances.

Fahrer: 4♣. I think 3♣ has already denied a heart stopper after two takeout doubles from South. 4♣ now from South, which should be forcing, set clubs as trumps. Looks like North's hand is all black suit honours.

The deal came up in the quarter final of the Teams Championship at the Gold Coast Congress 2024. Partner had ♠K53 ♥A85 ♦932 ♣KQ32. Three pairs went off in the unmakeable contract of 3NT, whereas one pair bid to 5♣ and made it. ♠♥♦♣

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons

6pm Mondays from 3 Feb?

10.30am Wednesdays from 5 Feb?

Improver Training

10.30am Mondays

Improver/Intermediate training

10am Wednesdays

Improver Bridge

7pm Thursdays

Intermediate Training

10am Fridays

Red (or gold) points

Usually held 1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays, and some other days.

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

State Open Pairs

1.20pm Fridays (to 15 Nov)

Welcome Summer Teams

10am Sunday 1 December

Festival of Bridge

26 December – 30 December

Pianola

♥ Partner finder ♥

Looking for a bridge partner?

Try the Partner finder feature in Pianola. Contact us if you need help.

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)

Ryde Eastwood Monday afternoon

- Alec Dunn & Glenice Peek (Sep)

Monday afternoon

- Haidene Maltz & Sue Williams (Sep)
- Ted Davis & Elaine Pickles (Oct)

Manly Club Tuesday morning

- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (Sep and Oct)

Tuesday morning

- Shirley Ferrier & Jeanette Beaumont (Sep)
- Faye McIntosh & Elizabeth Price (Oct)

Tuesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (Sep)
- Lesley Murray & Kevin Murray (Oct)

Tuesday night

- Ted Griffin & Elizabeth McDonald (Sep and Oct)

Wednesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (Sep)
- Barbara Gassmann & Christine Algie (Oct)

Wednesday night

- Heather Parker & Gordon Parker (Sep)
- Stef Savannah & Darryl West (Oct)

Thursday morning

- Kitty Biro & Kerry Boytell (Sep)

Warringah bowling Thursdays

- Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (Sep)
- Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (Oct)

Saturday afternoon

- Loretta Whiteley & Marilyn Vaughan (Sep)
- Caroline Rosser & Jeanette Beaumont (Aug)

Bridge at other venues:

Beside our regular games at Trumps (58 Spit Rd) we also run weekly games at following venues:

Bridge @ Ryde-Eastwood

12:30 for 12:45pm Mondays

Social duplicate @ RAC, Circular Quay

10.30am Tuesdays

Bridge @ The Manly Club

1pm Tuesdays (*bookings required*)

Bridge @ Warringah bowling

1pm Thursdays (*bookings required*)

Balmoral (members only)



Trumps fill-in players

WhatsApp group



Scan or upload this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

Trumps publishing:

Check our full range of books, pamphlets, software and other bridge merchandise.

Most improved Rating

	Name	Old	New	Gain
1	Kerrie Steggles	46.63	48.13	1.50
2	Peter Grant	45.7	46.91	1.21
3	Lilly Wilson	52.61	53.44	0.83
4	Barbara Huber	53.25	54.03	0.78
5	Ted Davis	54.12	54.8	0.68
6	Robyn Ronaldson	51.52	52.19	0.67
7	Timothy Bestelink	57.95	58.59	0.64
8	Hanna Lewandowska	45.65	46.2	0.55
9	Marjorie Lehmann	48.65	49.2	0.55
10	Marika Kruppay	57.38	57.93	0.55

Top Rated

	Name	Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	64.63
2	Eric Lippey	64.51
3	Tina Strickland	62.56
4	Neil Williams	62.34
5	Kim Dalling	61.47
6	Kevin Murray	61.45
7	Cia Benecke	61.18
8	Anthony Smuts	61.17
9	Barbara Gassmann	60.95
10	Tony Franklin	60.93

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

♣ **ABF masterpoint promotions** ♣

Kevin Murray	Silver Life
Megan Cornelius	Silver National
Christine Ingate	National
Virstine Yazdanparast	National
Timothy Bestelink	Bronze State
Victoria Westphal	Bronze Regional
Nurhan Parker	Regional
Toni Zaniboni	Regional
Paul Crombie	Silver Local
Terence Finnegan	Bronze Local
Mary Austin	Club
Yve Moorcroft	Club
Elizabeth Price	Graduate
Francie Rigg	Graduate
Margaret Dunlop	Graduate
Marie Amestoy	Graduate
Tina Ruygrok	Graduate

What to bid?

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

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♦ Pass

1NT Dbl Pass ?

♠ K 7 2

♥ 10 6

♦ J 10 5

♣ A 9 7 4 2

Timetable

Open Duplicates

	Morning	Afternoon	Night
Mon	join training	1.20* (some sup players)	
Tues	join other game	1.20*	7pm*
Wed		1.15*	7pm*
Thurs	9.50*	1.20*	
Fri		1.20*	7pm*
Sat		1.30	

*These games start with a short talk.

Red/gold points usually 1.20pm & 7pm Fridays.

Supervised

Mon	10.30 lessons	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	10am (lessons) see p5 lessons		
Thurs	1.15 for 1.30pm,		7pm
Fri	10am (lessons) see p5 lessons		
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 regular 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 (Ryde-Eastwood), Turramurra, Killara & Narrabeen
- Special events for members
- We pay your ABF and NSWBA fees if we are your home club.
- Eligibility for the ABF's travel insurance. See abfinsurance.com.au or call (07) 3252 5254

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 club edition) and the Bridge Shop; The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth Village, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣