



Trumps Update

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Gourmet play sees slam home

Derrick Browne

On the deal below, 6♠ looked to be a sweet spot when dummy went down. A bad trump break gave the slam a sour taste but a sniff at the bidding made it palatable after all.

Dealer: West, both Vul. **Contract:** 6♠ by South. **Lead:** ♦K.

NORTH

♠ 8 5 3
♥ AKQ9 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A 5 4

SOUTH

♠ AKQ10 4
♥ J 8
♦ A 9 3
♣ QJ 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Against South's 6♠ contract, West led the king of diamonds while East followed with the ♦J. Declarer fancied the prospects of making 12 tricks: five in each major, plus the minor suit aces.

After winning the diamond lead, declarer cashed a top spade and was disconcerted to see West show out, meaning that East had five spades. Time for a rethink. Declarer now had a sure trump loser and figured on making four spades (by taking the marked finesse to the ♠10), five hearts and a diamond – so would need to make two club tricks without losing a trick to the king.

If West has the ♣K, two tricks can be made by leading the ♣Q from the South hand for a finesse. If East has the ♣K, however, is it still possible for declarer to make two club tricks without conceding a club trick?

Yes – if East leads clubs! Given that East is unlikely to find this an appetising prospect, you must remove all other options.

Accordingly, declarer started cashing hearts: the ♥J then another heart to dummy's ace and king. West showed out on the third round of hearts so East was known to have started with four hearts; declarer cashed a fourth round of the suit, drawing East's last heart while having discarded the two diamond losers from the South hand.

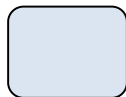
Next came a spade to the 10, followed by the other top spades, discarding a small club from dummy and leaving this position:

NORTH

♠ —
♥ 9
♦ 7
♣ A 5

WEST

♠ immaterial
♥
♦
♣



EAST

♠ J
♥ —
♦ ?
♣ ?

SOUTH

♠ 4
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q J 3

Declarer could lead the ♣Q or ♣J for a finesse, which would have failed this time as East has the ♣K. Better would be to make East lead clubs but if you play a spade to put East on lead, won't East lead a diamond with devastating effect?

Think back to the bidding. West's preemptive opening suggests a seven-card suit, especially when vulnerable. This is confirmed by East's play on the first trick, the ♦J, which looks like a singleton.

So East surely has no more diamonds. The winning play, then, is to play the ♠4 to throw East in on lead. Sure enough, East leads a club and you insert the ♣Q or ♣J to guarantee two tricks there, while the ♥9 is the last and therefore winning heart, so you tally up your slam. The full deal:

Dealer: West, both Vul. Contract: 6♠ by South. Lead: ♦K.

NORTH

♠ 8 5 3
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A 5 4

WEST

♠ —
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 10 8 6 5 2
♣ 10 9 7 6



EAST

♠ J 9 7 6 2
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ J
♣ K 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 4
♥ J 8
♦ A 9 3
♣ Q J 3

You are South with the hand shown. Choose a call then compare with the experts. On our panel, Derrick Browne and leading world bridge authorities Barry Rigal and Ron Klinger are joined by Nick Fahrer from The Bridge Shop, world number one BBO bidding forum winner and 2024 Australian Bridge bidding forum reader top scorer Alexander Cook, and NSW reps Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

North Deals, NS Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	Pass
1NT	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ K 7 2
♥ 10 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A 9 7 4 2

Votes by our panellists

CALL	VOTES
2♣	5
Pass	1
3♣	1

Both opponents bid, then partner came into the auction with a double. How should we compete?

Cook: 2♣. Partner asked for my longest suit and so I will bid it. I'm maximum for the non-jump reply but there's no law against being at the top of the range. If the opponents then bid 2♦, I'll go to 3♣.

Derrick predicts the 2♦ competition over 2♣, and so seeks to get in with 3♣ first:

Browne: 3♣. Slightly pushy, but also stops West from bidding at the 2-level. I could have passed the double for penalties with a strong hand, so partner won't expect too many values in my hand.

Rigal: 2♣. I play this as takeout and I'm going to take it out, expecting that partner is allowed to correct with the right hand. (Some play that partner bids 2♣ here with 5-4 majors, and 2♦ with 5-5.)

Hughes: 2♣. Double is takeout so could be a shapely 4-4-1-4 with less than an opening hand, say 10 points. Passing could score -180, or see West bidding 2♦ before we have shown our clubs.

Partner's double after the opponents have only bid minor suit(s) is usually very much focussed on the majors. So, I assume if Nick's or Barry's partner bids 2♥, ("partner I didn't want clubs") they will correct that back to 2♠. That would suggest some spade tolerance, but less than 3 cards in hearts.

Giura: 2♣. I'll have to confess, I did consider pass, but who am I kidding, West is going to bid 2♦.

Now why on earth would someone suggest passing? Ron Klinger gets to the nub of that reasoning:

Klinger: 2♣. West is expected to have 4+ clubs, but I have five and partner should be prepared for a 2♣ reply. If partner does not have 3+ clubs, they are expected to remove 2♣ to some other spot. I could live with a 2♠ bid, but I would hate for partner to compete higher in spades.

Yes I also considered 2♠ because making 8 tricks in spades (on a presumed 4/3 fit) is worth the same number of points as making nine tricks in clubs (+110). But Ron points out a very valid risk.

Fahrer: Pass. 1NT over 1♦ almost certainly promises club length.

Yes, a case of "what wasn't bid shows more than what was bid". West's 1NT, if following best practice, should be denying any 4+ card major, and they didn't raise diamonds. But they have 13 cards, so would seem to have clubs. In that case, partner is very likely to have both majors. If so, the hand is a misfit and West may have trouble establishing length tricks in any particular suit. Pass is for "blood", admittedly it is a 'go for glory' action that will either work very well, or work very badly.

The deal came up at the Gold Coast Congress 2024. North had ♠JT983 ♥AQ82 ♦KQ ♣65. Some Souths did pass 1NT doubled and some Wests passed that out. The jack of spades was led immediately through the doubleton ♠AQ in the East hand. The result was two off, +300. ♠♥♦♣

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)

Festival of Bridge

26 December – 30 December

(see page 7 for regular session schedule)

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

- Allen Colgan & Pauline Colgan (Oct)
- Annette Ashmore & Sue Cooper (Nov)

Monday afternoon

- Haidene Maltz & Sue Williams (Nov)

Manly Club Tuesday morning

- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (Nov)

Tuesday morning

- Peter Grant & Kerrie Steggles (Nov)

Tuesday afternoon

- Stef Savanah & Darryl West (Nov)

Tuesday night

- Tony Franklin & Simon Moore (Nov)

Wednesday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (Nov)

Wednesday night

- Gill Chambers & Wendy Bagot (Nov)

Thursday morning

- Jane Armitage & Cia Benecke (Nov)

Warringah bowling Thursdays

- Bob Clayton & Mary Sifis (Nov)

Saturday afternoon

- Timothy Bestelink & Jillian Raymond (Nov)

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)**Most improved Rating**

		Old	New	Gain
1	Kerrie Steggles	46.63	48.01	1.38
2	Peter Grant	45.70	47.01	1.31
3	Wendy Bagot	52.56	53.79	1.23
4	Darryl West	56.87	57.71	0.84
5	Stef Savanah	56.87	57.71	0.84
6	Lilly Wilson	52.61	53.44	0.83
7	Gloria Picker	45.24	46.04	0.80
8	Meg Cornelius	57.77	58.53	0.76
9	The doc Chambers	52.97	53.66	0.69
10	Suzie Mandelberg	44.89	45.56	0.67



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.

Top Rated

		Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	64.35
2	Eric Lippey	64.14
3	Tina Strickland	62.94
4	Neil Williams	62.18
5	Kim Dalling	61.54
6	Cia Benecke	61.43
7	Kevin Murray	61.29
8	Tony Franklin	61.07
9	Anthony Smuts	60.68
10	Barbara Gassmann	60.57

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

♣ **ABF** masterpoint promotions ♣

Carole Vildzius	Regional
Jan Harker	Regional
Avril Ridley	Silver Local
Marita Dann	Silver Local
Phil McHugh	Bronze Local
Roger Raven	Club
Darryl West	Club
Stef Savannah	Club
Martyn Simmons	Club

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

What to bid?

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

Dealer East, NS Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	?

♠ 7
♥ Q10 3
♦ J 9 3
♣ K J 10 8 7 6

Register through myABF for these five Events

Thu 26 th	Fri 27 th	Sat 28 th	Sun 29 th	Mon 30 th
Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4	Event 5
Swiss Pairs	AB Teams	Festival Pairs (or let us know if wishing to join afternoon)	Festival Teams	10am Gourmet Pairs
				1.20pm Normal Aft Supervised

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

7pm
Normal
Supervised

TRUMPS SCHEDULE

Tue 24 th	Wed 25 th	26 th – 30 th	Tue 31 st	Wed 1 st
Regular program to Tues 24 th daytime	Xmas Closed	<i>See Festival schedule above</i>	10am Sup	Regular program resumes
10am Supervised			1.20pm Open	10am Training
1.20pm Open			No Night Game New Year's Eve	1.20pm Dup
No Night Game Christmas Eve				7pm Dup

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! ♦♣