



# Trumps Update

February 2025

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## Intra-esting

*Derrick Browne*

The deal for this issue, submitted by Nick Hughes, was one that piqued his interest when he was playing on BBO.

**Dealer:** South, Nil vul. **Contract:** 4♥ by South. **Lead:** ♦J.

### NORTH

♠ A 8 5 2

♥ Q 10 3

♦ 8 5 4

♣ J 8 3



### SOUTH

♠ K 9 3

♥ A K J 7 6

♦ A K 7

♣ 9 5

| WEST     | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
|          |       |      | 1♥    |
| Pass     | 2♥    | Pass | 4♥    |
| All Pass |       |      |       |

A straight forward auction saw North-South reach a marginal game contract. West led the jack of diamonds.

How do you plan the hand as declarer in 4♥?

There are two losers in clubs and a deep loser in diamonds and another in spades. The clubs are ready to be lost off the top as soon as the opponents get the lead and play clubs, but you have a bit of time to try to do something with one of the other losers.

Declarer came up with a plan, drawing trumps then ducking a spade. If the suit divided 3-3 the fourth round would come good to provide a parking place for (say) the diamond loser. However the odds of a 3-3 break are only 36% and this time spades were divided 4-2 (48% chance).

There are many different finessing card combinations encountered at the bridge table. Success on this hand required an understanding of a radically different type of finesse called the “intra-finesse”, where the first finesse does not expect to create an extra trick but rather to set the stage to pin a big card on the next round. Let’s see how it works.

Draw trumps in three rounds, finishing in dummy. Next lead a spade and (if second player plays low, in this case the ♠6) insert the ♠9, the so-called intra-finesse. This loses to the ♠10.

Say that West persists with diamonds. You win and might play hearts just to force enemy discards but then you cash the ♠K and see the ♠J drop from East.

You do not know the spade layout for sure. There are two relevant holdings possible in spades. East may have started with the Q-J-6 but is more likely to have started with J-6. With Q-J-6, East may have split honours on the first round of spades, and also could have thrown the queen instead of jack on the second round (the principle of restricted choice – with only J-6, East has no choice as to which honour to play on the second round).

Going with the odds, you assume East started with J-6 and now has no more spades, so you lead your ♠3 to finesse to the ♠8, which wins, giving you the extra trick needed for the contract. The full hand was:

**Dealer:** South, Nil vul. **Contract:** 4H by South. **Lead:** ♦J.

**NORTH**

♠ A 8 5 2  
♥ Q 10 3  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ J 8 3

**WEST**

♠ Q 10 7 4  
♥ 8 5  
♦ J 10 6  
♣ A Q 7 2

**EAST**

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

**SOUTH**

♠ K 9 3  
♥ A K J 7 6  
♦ A K 7  
♣ 9 5

Note that West could have thrown declarer off the scent by winning the first round of spades with the queen. Declarer would then have assumed that the ♠10 “must” be with East, and would therefore not have tried finessing to the ♠8 and would thus have been defeated. At the table, only a world class player (or a beginner) would find that odd play.



# Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

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 |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♦    | Pass | ?     |

♠ 7  
♥ Q10 3  
♦ J 9 3  
♣ K J 10 8 7 6

Votes by our panellists

| CALL | VOTES |
|------|-------|
| 1NT  | 5     |
| 1♥   | 1     |
| 2♣   | 1     |

*Partner has opened but we seem to have no way or replying in a natural way. Should we just pass? None of the panel chose to pass. Why? Because with 8 points, maybe if partner is strong we can even make a game, or else perhaps we can find a better spot.*

**Browne:** 1NT. I play inverted minors whereby a raise to 2♦ shows a fit and over 10 points, so I can't do that. In my methods, 3♣ doesn't show this hand, so I have no choice but to settle for 1NT.

**Cook:** 1NT. Not happy with my call but other options are worse. As a passed hand I could bid 2♣ or even 3♣ (invitational) but partner will bid 2NT or 3NT when it is too much. I don't want to encourage partner to bid 2NT or 3NT.

*Yes, even as a passed hand, a 2 over 1 change of suit should show a maximum pass.*

**Fahrer:** 1NT - the least of all evils. Not strong enough for 2♣, not enough diamonds for 2♦. Bidding 1♥ has some appeal (yes.... even with three!).

*Normally, a 1NT reply should not be made with a singleton in an unbid major, but most of the panel went down that path. Nicoleta and Ron remind us of the requirements for a 1NT reply:*

**Giura:** 1NT. Shows 6 to 9 high card points and denies a four-card major. I have respect for the 2♣ bidders. *Your long-time partner Nick will be pleased with that, see his choice below 😊*

**Klinger:** 1NT. Standard, 6-9 points. Shows 4+ clubs. Might cut the opponents out of spades.

*A 1NT reply doesn't say what you have, it tells partner what you don't have: "I don't have a hand good enough to change suit at the 2 level, and also I have no major to show at the 1-level and probably no fit for your suit".*

**Hughes:** 2♣. Sounds like partner has a good hand. Don't want to wrong-side 3NT.

*Why does Nick suspect partner has a good hand? Answer: "Listen to the auction". The opponents are silent. West, who was not vulnerable in third seat, couldn't even muster up a light opening.*

**Rigal:** 1♥. I've been disciplined for too long. Time to come out and play.

*Although this may shock some readers, I think it's a totally reasonable choice, albeit with just three cards. If partner raises hearts, they will almost always have four-card support and you can just pass.*

*The deal came up at a Trumps session in March 2024. North had ♠AQ4 ♥AJ98 ♦KQ762 ♣4. The layout was very friendly, except for the spade king with East. That meant that on best play, North can make ten tricks in notrump. However, South can only make 7 tricks in notrump, as an initial spade lead through North's ♠AQ is very bad for South players who declare notrump. Both North and South can make 10 tricks with hearts or clubs as trumps. ♠♥♦♣*

## Lessons & events

### Beginner Lessons

9.30am Mondays from 3 March

### Intermediate lessons

10.30am Mondays *till 24 March, followed by training*

### Improvers' Bridge lessons

10am Wednesdays *till 26 March, followed by training*

### Improvers' Play lessons

7pm Thursdays *till 27 March, followed by training*

### 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 Festival (per schedule)

*Mixed Pairs all welcome, but Mixed win*

**1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays** 14, 21, 28 **Feb** TBC & 7, 14, 21 **March** SBA

**7 for 7.10pm Fridays** 21, 28

**Feb** TBC & 14, 21 **March** SBA

(see page 7 for regular session schedule)

**Metro North Interclub Pairs**

9.45 for 10am Sunday 9 March at East Lindfield.

## 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

- Barry Goldsworthy & Philip McHugh (January)

### Monday afternoon

- Pauline Kingsford-Smith & Roger Raven (December)

### Manly Club Tuesday morning

- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (January)

### Tuesday morning

- Charles Thorburn & Rupert Hill (January)

### Tuesday afternoon

- Annabel McLean & June Herbert (January)

### Tuesday night

- Tim Rickard & Alec Spiller (January)

### Wednesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (January)

### Wednesday night

- Stef Savannah & Darryl West (January)
- Simon Stevens & Chris Severn (January)

### Thursday morning

- Lisa Rush & Richard Samuels (January)

### Warringah bowling Thursdays

- Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (January)

### Friday afternoon

- Sue Scotford & Rodney Scotford (January)

### Saturday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Gary Hughes (January)

### 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 ♣

|    |                          | Old   | New   | Gain        |
|----|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | <b>Brian Mitchell</b>    | 51.02 | 52.18 | <b>1.16</b> |
| 2  | <b>Iona Silver</b>       | 42.36 | 43.21 | <b>0.85</b> |
| 3  | <b>Timothy Bestelink</b> | 58.98 | 59.79 | <b>0.81</b> |
| 4  | Sally Morton             | 55.78 | 56.58 | 0.80        |
| 5  | Gay Suters               | 55.31 | 56.04 | 0.73        |
| 6  | Gail Thompson            | 49.95 | 50.68 | 0.73        |
| 7  | Judith Oliver            | 57.98 | 58.70 | 0.72        |
| 8  | Lilly Wilson             | 53.14 | 53.84 | 0.70        |
| 9  | Leonie Grattan           | 45.71 | 46.41 | 0.70        |
| 10 | Clive Todd               | 44.21 | 44.88 | 0.67        |

## ♣ Top Rated ♣

|    |                  | Rating       |
|----|------------------|--------------|
| 1  | Kerry Boytell    | <b>65.60</b> |
| 2  | Eric Lippey      | <b>64.87</b> |
| 3  | Neil Williams    | <b>62.33</b> |
| 4  | Tina Strickland  | <b>62.12</b> |
| 5  | Cia Benecke      | <b>61.55</b> |
| 6  | Kim Dalling      | <b>61.27</b> |
| 7  | Kevin Murray     | <b>60.68</b> |
| 8  | Barbara Gassmann | <b>60.65</b> |
| 9  | Tony Franklin    | <b>60.49</b> |
| 10 | Lydia Gibbs      | <b>60.32</b> |

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

## ♣ **ABF** masterpoint promotions ♣

Neil Williams

*Grand*

Andrew Parsons

*Local*

Sharon Paull

*Local*

*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        |
|------|-------|------|--------------|
|      | 1♠    | 2♠   | ?            |
|      |       |      | ♠ K 4 2      |
|      |       |      | ♥ K          |
|      |       |      | ♦ 9 6 5 2    |
|      |       |      | ♣ A 10 7 6 2 |

2♠ = Michaels cue bid: 5+ hearts and 5+ in a minor suit

# Timetable

## Open Duplicates

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

\*These games start with a short talk.

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

## Supervised

|              |                               |       |      |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Mon</b>   | 10.30 lessons                 | 1.20* | 7pm* |
| <b>Tues</b>  | 9.50*                         |       |      |
| <b>Wed</b>   | 10am (lessons) see p5 lessons |       |      |
| <b>Thurs</b> | 1.15 for 1.30pm,              |       | 7pm  |
| <b>Fri</b>   | 10am (lessons) see p5 lessons |       |      |
| <b>Sat</b>   | 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).
- 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](http://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! ♦♣