



Trumps Update

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(02) 9969 5959

trumps.net.au

trumps@trumps.net.au

www.facebook.com/trumpsbridgecentre

Counting the key

Derrick Browne

Today's deal is submitted by leading player Ted Bourke, of Canberra. Your left hand opponent, West, is vulnerable and opens a weak 2♥ and your partner, North, overcalls 2♠. East passes and you must decide what to do with this hand:

SOUTH

♠ J 7 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ AKQ7
♣ AK 7

With 20 HCP and a reasonable fit for spades, you bid 4NT (which you play with this partner as ordinary Blackwood, not Keycard), and North answers 5♦ to show one ace. What should you call next?

A danger if you bid 6♠ is that East will be on lead and will start with a heart through your king, and it will be no surprise to find that the heart bidder, West, is sitting over you with the A-Q of hearts. To protect your ♥K, you decide to bid 6NT.

This has been the auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

The ♦J is led.

Dealer West, EW vul. Contract: 6NT by South.

NORTH

♠ AKQ 8 5
♥ 10
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q10 9 3

♦J led



SOUTH

♠ J 7 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ AKQ 7
♣ AK 7

How should you plan the play in 6NT?

Barring a 5-0 break, there will be five tricks in spades, and you have six top tricks in the minors, a total of 11 tricks. A heart lead would have provided the twelfth but West was not so kind – the diamond lead has given you nothing.

You focus on the three main chances for a twelfth trick.

Firstly, if the ♥A is with East, a finesse to the ♥K would work. However this seems unlikely given West's 2H opening, and given that you are in notrumps you cannot safely play the suit to test the layout.

Secondly, diamonds may be 3-3 in which case the fourth round of diamonds will come good.

Thirdly, the clubs may behave (splitting 3-3, or a short jack). That is not the only possibility in the suit – a finesse is also possible, if you knew who had the jack.

You could cash the spades, diamonds and clubs but this time neither minor breaks so you will be defeated if you take this line.

You already know that West has six hearts for the vulnerable weak two opening, and if you can find out more about the distribution it may help you decide how to play the clubs.

Accordingly, start by cashing the three diamond winners. East shows out on the third round, meaning that West started with four diamonds, as well as the six-card heart suit. It can't hurt to cash the ♣A (or ♣K) so do that too, finding that both opponents follow.

Next, play the ♠J then another spade over to dummy, and again both opponents follow. What have we discovered about the hand?

West has followed to two rounds of spades, has shown six hearts with the weak two, is known to have started with four diamonds since East had only a doubleton, and has followed suit to one round of clubs. Thus West's shape was 2-6-4-1.

Given that West has no more clubs, you confidently lead the ♣10 from dummy for a finesse. Sure enough, it wins, so you are then able to cash the ♣K, then cross back to dummy with a spade to take the remaining black suit winners. This was the complete hand:

NORTH

♠ AKQ85

♥ 10

♦ 852

♣ Q1093

WEST

♠ 93

♥ A Q J 9 7 3

♦ J 10 9 6

♣ 2



EAST

♠ 10 6 4

♥ 6 4 2

♦ 4 3

♣ J 8 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ J 7 2

♥ K 8 5

♦ AKQ7

♣ AK7



Bidding Forum moderated by Alex Kemeny

You are East 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.

West Deals, none Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ 2♠ ?

♠ K 4 2
♥ K
♦ 9 6 5 2
♣ A 10 7 6 2

2♠ = Michaels cue bid
5 hearts and 5 card minor

Votes by our panellists	
CALL	VOTES
3♥	6
3♠	1

This hand has 8 theoretical losers (2 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs), so is about 1 trick worse than an opening hand. Unless partner has some extras, 8 losers opposite an opening hand makes an average of 9 tricks when a fit exists. And the panel has come to the same conclusion.

Browne: 3♠, showing a fit and moderate strength. Seems about right. There is no reason to assume that anyone can make game, so I am not going to bounce to 4♠.

Cook: 3♥. This is a cue raise showing a good raise (limit raise or more) in spades. This is a little too strong for a competitive 3♠. If partner bids 3♠ I will pass.

Fahrer: 3♥ - cue bidding their suit - a good raise to 3♠ or better.

Giura: 3♥ – to stop in 3♠ if minimum opening.

Klinger: 3♥, sound raise to 3♠, for most pairs, I expect. In our methods we play X = 6-9 pts, exactly 3 spades, 2NT 10+ with exactly 3 spades, 3♥ = 10+ with 4+ spades, 3♠ = 6-9 with 4+ spades.

Hughes: 3♥. Limit spade raise, though maybe 3♠ is enough, plus might silence West.

Rigal: 3♥. Limit raise with three trumps, but I do think it's a slight overbid. Those pesky opponents!

4♠ can go down, but it requires an initial trump lead to create that chance for the defence legitimately, because two rounds of trumps destroys dummy's ability to ruff more than once.

On a non-trump lead, declarer can in theory make 4♠, but will have to play very well. At the end, declarer plays all their trumps. South is squeezed in clubs & hearts, having to discard from ♥QT, ♣J5. A club gives declarer 4 clubs tricks, but barring the ♥Q allows declarer to let South win with that card, only to lead away from ♣J5, declarer holding ♣Q8 and dummy ♣107. But 4♥ for the opponents makes:

In 4♥, declarer can ruff a spade, play ace then queen of hearts and lead any diamond from the table. When the king pops, declarer can either continue with a high diamond or ruff a low one, either way the defence just gets their trump jack as their third trick.

W Deals None Vul

♠ AJ1096 ♥ J74 ♦ K ♣ KQ83	♠ 875 ♥ A8632 ♦ AQJ84 ♣ —	♠ K42 ♥ K ♦ 9652 ♣ A10762
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11 14 10 5	♠ Q3 ♥ Q1095 ♦ 1073 ♣ J954
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NS 4♥; EW 3♠; EW 4♣;
NS 2♦; Par +100;
...EW 4♠x-1; EW 5♣x-1

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons

2pm Thursdays from 1 May **or**

6.30pm Thursdays from 1 May

Beginner card play

9.30am Mondays

Intermediate training

10.30am Mondays

Improvers' training

10am Wednesdays

Novice training

10am Wednesdays

Improvers' training

7pm Thursdays

Intermediate/open 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)

GNOT (Butler Pairs) Gold points

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays

2 - 30 May *Trumps* & 6 June - 4 July
SBA

7 for 7.10pm Fridays

2 - 30 May *Trumps*

7 for 7.10pm Tuesdays

3 June - 1 July SBA

Good Friday Gourmet Pairs

1.30pm Friday 18 April (Book via myABF)

(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

- Barry Goldsworthy & Philip McHugh (February)
- Martin Stone & Sharon Lovelock (March)

Monday afternoon

- Haidene Maltz & Sue Williams (February)
- Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson (March)

Manly Club Tuesday morning

- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (February)
- Caroline Rossier & Patricia Gordon (March)

Tuesday morning

- Peter Grant & Kerrie Steggles (February)
- James Taylor & Warwick Birch (March)

Tuesday afternoon

- Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (February)
- Meg Sharp & Barbara Gassman (March)

Tuesday night

- Meg Cornelius & Timothy Bestelink (February)
- Tony Franklin & Simon Moore (March)

Wednesday night

- Gill Chambers & Wendy Bagot (February)

Thursday morning

- Jane Armitage & Cia Benecke (February)
- Kitty Biro & Kerry Boytell (March)

Wednesday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (March)

Warringah bowling Thursday afternoon

- Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (February)
- Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (March)

Saturday afternoon

- Timothy Bestelink & Jillian Raymond (February)
- Gary Hughes & Judith Oliver (March)

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	Marjorie Lehmann	44.6	47.01	2.41
2	Judith Oliver	58.59	60.3	1.71
3	Isabel Masterton	49.9	51.36	1.46
4	Jeanette Beaumont	51.38	52.77	1.39
5	Felicity Duivenbode	50.8	52.15	1.35
6	Anthea Piddington	52.06	53.26	1.2
7	Megan Donnelly	51.16	52.31	1.15
8	Gary Hughes	51.47	52.59	1.12
9	Loretta Whiteley	54.96	56.03	1.07
10	Sally Munnings	47.75	48.82	1.07

♣ Top Rated ♣

		Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	66.67
2	Eric Lippey	65.92
3	Neil Williams	63.30
4	Tina Strickland	62.31
5	Simon Moore	61.67
6	Rob Holgate	61.40
7	Kevin Murray	61.38
8	Cia Benecke	61.16
9	Timothy Bestelink	60.64
10	Kim Dalling	60.59

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



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.

♣ ABF masterpoint promotions ♣

Joanne Beattie	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Libby Moline	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Pip Pritchett	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Glenys Beaumont	Club
Kaye Swanson	Club
Jan Guz	Graduate

Congratulations!

What to bid?

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

Dealer North, Both Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Pass	1♠	?
			♠ J 9 3
			♥ A J
			♦ A Q J 5
			♣ Q J 10 6

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	9.30/10.30 lessons	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	10,10.30am (lessons) see p5 lessons		
Thurs			7pm
Fri	10am (lessons) see p5 lessons		
Sat	10am*		

*Supervised games start with a talk.

(Check bridge at other venues on the previous page)

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 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.

