



Trumps Update

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Unfriendly break at Friendly pairs

by Derrick Browne

Occasionally, Trumps has run a Friendly Pairs Congress where the prizes are all non-cash. This is designed to foster a more friendly, less competitive attitude, but when the following deal arose in one of these events, declarer needed to harden her resolve.

Your partner opens 1NT (15-17); what is your plan with this hand?

SOUTH

♠ A 10 8 4
♥ K 4
♦ 2
♣ K J 6 5 4 2

NORTH

♠ K J
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ A Q 3



SOUTH

♠ A 10 8 4
♥ K 4
♦ 2
♣ K J 6 5 4 2

NORTH	SOUTH
1NT	2C ¹
2H	3C
4C	4NT ²
5S ³	6C

¹Stayman

²Roman Keycard Blackwood

³Two keycards + queen of trumps

At matchpoints (also known as pairs scoring or ordinary duplicate) it is usually suicide to pull partner out of notrumps into a minor. When the choice is between 3NT or a minor suit game, it is almost always right to take your chances in 3NT. This time, however, it is worth showing the minor because slam is a possibility. Accordingly, the auction may proceed as follows:

North has a handy club fit and filling honours in South's spades, so is happy to support clubs, trusting that partner has good reason for bothering to show the minor. The 4NT bid agreed clubs and asked for keycards (the four aces plus the king of trumps).

The slam is an excellent one – especially if you make it. West leads the ♦K, followed by the ♦Q, which you ruff.

Counting your winners, you assess two top spades, three top hearts, and six clubs, a total of 11 tricks. When playing in a suit contract, it is frequently possible to increase your trick tally by ruffing in the “short hand” (the hand with fewer trumps). Ruffing one of the potential spade losers would thereby see the contract home.

If clubs were divided 2-2, you could draw trumps first for maximum safety. However when you lead a club to dummy’s ace, West shows out. If a spade is to be ruffed, it must be done while trumps are still out. You cash the ♠K, followed by the ♠A on the next trick, while East, an honest giver of count signals, shows an even number of spades. This worries you; what if East’s even number of spades was a doubleton?

As it happens, East actually had four spades so if you ruff a spade with the ♣3 it will not be over-ruffed. This is the straightforward line to success. Trumps could thereafter easily be drawn (the ♥K is available as an entry back to hand) and South’s fourth spade could be thrown on the third heart winner.

At the table, declarer shifted to a different line, cashing the ace and queen of clubs then ruffing another diamond, with East’s ace falling. This left the following position:

NORTH

♠ —
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ 10
♣ 3

SOUTH

♠ 10 8
♥ K 4
♦ —
♣ K J

West’s last six cards were the ♠Q, the ♦J and four hearts, with no idle cards. When the ♣K was led next, it was already too much pressure for West to bear – squeezed in three suits, he had to either unguard his hearts or throw his spade or diamond winner. This was the full deal:

NORTH

♠ K J
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ A Q 3

WEST

♠ Q 7 2
♥ J 9 8 7 3
♦ K Q J 9 8
♣ —



EAST

♠ 9 6 5 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A 6 5
♣ 10 9 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A 10 8 4
♥ K 4
♦ 2
♣ K J 6 5 4 2



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 Keiran Dyke and Ron Klinger are joined by Nick Fahrre 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, Both Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

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

Votes by our panellists

CALL	VOTES
------	-------

Pass	4
------	---

1NT	2
-----	---

DbI	1
-----	---

As the Riddler from “Batman” might say – “When can a non-stopper stop a suit?”.

Browne: Pass. I can hardly overcall 1NT with no stopper in their long suit, or make a 2-level overcall with a (modest) four-card suit, or double for takeout with only two cards in the other major (unless it was a very strong hand). The decision is made clearer because both are vulnerable, where defending the part-score is more appealing.

True enough, at least if they go off, you pick up 100s, not 50s as you would if they were not vul.

Cook: Double. If partner replies 2♥, I will pass. Doubling with only 2 in the unbid major is a no-no but I think the hand is too strong to pass.

If partner bids a minor, this will work well, but partner is quite likely to bid hearts. If only holding a four-card suit, will be in a very poor 4/2 trump suit. Us then running to 2NT is very unattractive.

Fahrer: Pass. 1NT is tempting, but often wrong. I'll pass and listen to how the auction develops.

Give opener 13 points. That leaves only 11 points for the other two players, So, it may well develop by the next action being your lead of the ♣Q to the opponent's comfortable low-level contract of 1♠.

Dyke: Pass. Bidding would appeal more if partner were not a passed hand.

Hughes: Pass. Vulnerable, no stopper, partner a passed hand.

Even if East was dealer, we would pretty much know partner had less than an opening.

If the opponents do have the top 3 spades, they are 5/7th of the way to making 1♠. Let's divide the approximately 11 points that we hope exist between North and West – guess about half each, with partner having no spade honour. We can hope for say ♥Q and a minor suit king with partner, that should get us up to 6 tricks at least in 1NT. I suppose the following panellists have that in mind:

Giura: 1NT. Not kosher, but I hate to pass.

Klinger: 1NT . . . You do or you don't. I expect partner to provide at least ♠Q-x.

Yes, lots of things can go wrong, but it's a bidder's game, so bidding could well be right. The auction isn't over anyway; partner might have long hearts and transfer us to 2♥ or even a minor.

And the Riddler's answer to the question: “A non-stopper is a stopper when the opponent's suit is blocked, such as doubleton ♠KQ, with West.”

On the actual hand, which arose in a Trumps session, West did have that doubleton ♠KQ holding, and ♥Q52. East held ♠AT842♥K763♦K♣A98. West cashed the two spades, East signalled for a club switch (♠2 saying “I like spades” then ♠4 showing values in the lower other suit), got it and cashed their spades. Even though North's points were ♣K only, South had the rest for +90. A heart switch from West would have defeated 1NT. East-West can make 8 tricks in spades. ♠♥♦♣

Lessons & events

Beginner Lessons

9.30am Mondays from 28 July

6.30pm Mondays from 28 July

Beginner card play

2pm Thursdays from 12 June

Intermediate training

10.30am Mondays

Improvers' training

10am Wednesdays

Improver lessons

10.30am 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

6 June – 4 July SBA

7 for 7.10pm Tuesdays

3 June – 1 July SBA

State Open Teams (Butler Pairs)

1.20 for 1.30pm Fridays 11 -25 July

State-wide Pairs

1.20 for 1.30pm Friday 1 August

(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

- Martin Stone & Sharon Lovelock (April)
- Martin Stone & Sharon Lovelock (May)

Monday afternoon

- Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson (April)
- Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson (May)

Manly Club Tuesday morning

- Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (April)
- Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (May)

Tuesday morning

- Martin Stone & Rebecca Higgs (April)
- Andrew Parsons & Nick Debenham (May)

Tuesday afternoon

- Meg Sharp & Barbara Gassmann (April)
- Marika Kruppay & Loretta Whiteley (May)

Tuesday night

- Tim Rickard & Alec Spiller (April)
- Tim Rickard & Alec Spiller (May)

Wednesday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (April)
- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (May)

Wednesday night

- Heather Parker & Gordon Parker (April)
- Stef Savannah & Darryl West (May)

Thursday morning

- Kitty Biro & Kerry Boytell (April)
- Judith Oliver & Kim Dalling (May)

Thursday afternoon

- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (April)
- Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppay (May)

Warringah bowling Thursday afternoon

- Chris Golis & Sean Wareing (April)
- Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (May)

Saturday afternoon

- Loretta Whiteley & Olivia Johnson (April)
- Robin Ho & Elizabeth Neil (May)

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

BRIDGE HOLIDAY Canberra Mercure



Sun 14 Sep to Wed 17 Sep

\$819 twin share or \$1039 single

♣ Most improved Rating ♣

		Old	New	Gain
1	Isabel Masterton	50.8	52.06	1.26
2	Alex Matthews	49.61	50.56	0.95
3	Darryl West	56.84	57.78	0.94
4	Stef Savanah	57.05	57.96	0.91
5	Shane Kelly	43.05	43.96	0.91
6	Barbara Huber	52.89	53.72	0.83
7	Paul Goodyer	33.72	34.54	0.82
8	Marie Amestoy	46.94	47.75	0.81
9	Timothy Bestelink	59.56	60.34	0.78
10	Elaine Healy	51.14	51.91	0.77

♣ Top Rated ♣

		Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	65.91
2	Eric Lippey	65.37
3	Neil Williams	63.48
4	Tina Strickland	62.31
5	Simon Moore	61.56
6	Kevin Murray	61.42
7	Kim Dalling	61.13
8	Trish Armstrong	61.09
9	Barbara Gassmann	60.74
10	Noreen Armstrong	60.66

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

♣ **ABF** masterpoint promotions ♣

Patricia Armstrong	Silver Life
Ellen Borda	Life
Loretta Whiteley	Bronze <i>State</i>
Gilly Grose	Bronze <i>Regional</i>
Tony Berg	Regional
Terence Finnegan	Silver Local
Molly King	Silver Local
Giselle Chadwick	Club
Sue Wong	Club
Colette Colman	Graduate
Rikki Kimura	Graduate

Congratulations!

Great News from Australia-wide novice pairs

On Tuesday morning, 27 May, we held our club heat of the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs (AWNPs). This fun national event lets you play at your local club, with your results compared to players all over Australia.

Big congratulations to **Nettie Tallentire and Heather Hyde** (see photo) — not only did they win at Trumps, but they also finished **in the top 10 nationwide!**

Awesome effort, Nettie and Heather!



Names / Club	Score
1 Ian Wheeldon & Tineke Tamis <i>Monoaro</i>	70.5
2 Anna Siganto & Andrew Sunter <i>Sydney</i>	69.2
3 Joan Craig & Jane MacKenzie <i>KLTC</i>	69.0
4 Declan Gould & Levi Capper <i>Moonee Valley</i>	68.9
5 David Melzer & Glenn Foard <i>Ocean Grove</i>	68.9
6 Jenny Williams & Lisa Everingham <i>KLTC</i>	68.6
7 Gary & Denise Marr <i>Great Lakes</i>	68.5
7 David Casey & Philip Dunlop-Moore <i>Geelong</i>	68.5
9 Nettie Tallentire & Heather Hyde <i>Trumps</i>	68.0
10 Maurice Ford & Mark Glaser <i>Nedlands</i>	67.5

What to bid?

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

Dealer East, Both Vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ —
♥ J 7
♦ J 10 9 6 3
♣ J 6 5 4 3 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	9.30/10.30 lessons	1.20*	7pm*
Tues	9.50*		
Wed	10,10.30am (lessons)	<i>see p5 lessons</i>	
Thurs			7pm
Fri	10am (lessons)	<i>see p5 lessons</i>	
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), The Manly Club, Trans Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Lok Lok Dumpling Bar, Fourth Village, and Baytree Greenwich.



♠♥ Happy Trumping! ♦♣



BRIDGE TRAVEL HOLIDAY TO CANBERRA

CAPITAL IDEA!

Staying in a Superior room at the historic
Canberra Mercure

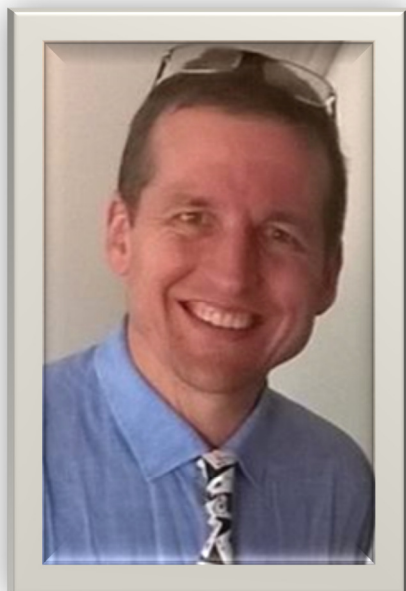
Sunday 14 September to Wednesday 17 September 2025

with Derrick Browne

**Trumpsters
\$50 off;
non-mems
sub to 2026!**

Bridge holiday program:

Sunday	Monday
Arrive at the Mercure	Breakfast 6.30-9(/10)am
2pm Clinic	9am Teams 1 (longer)
3pm Welcome Pairs	Afternoon: Floriade!
6pm Welcome dinner 3-course	Dinner not incl; join us at Olims
Then trivia, Oh Hell game	7.15pm Teams 2 (short)
Tuesday	Wednesday
Breakfast 6.30-9.30(/10)am	Breakfast 6.30-9(/10)am
9am Pairs Qual	9am pre-game talk, analysis
2.30pm Pairs Final	9.15am Farewell pairs
6pm Presentation dinner 3-course	Noon: Final presentation
Clinic after dinner	and depart



You stay in the heritage-listed Mercure (formerly Olim's Hotel), **cnr Ainslie & Limestone Avenues, Braddon, ph (02) 6243 0000**, 1km north of Canberra Centre and even closer to the Australian War Memorial.

One of Canberra's original guesthouses, it opened in 1927, the same year as Old Parliament House, and retains many original features even after its \$8 million renovation. It features a garden courtyard which is spectacular in spring. Included are three nights' accommodation, breakfasts, two dinners, plus parking.

At a vote-winning price of just \$819p (twin share) or \$1039 single! Less \$50 Trumps/SB

- Come a night early at a special rate of \$185 (1 breakfast) or \$205 (2 guests for breakfast) for a true holiday.
Or stay an extra night for \$165

Elect to experience: Floriade; Last Post ceremony at the War Memorial; Guided tour of Parliament House; a visit to the National Gallery, Portrait Gallery, High Court, National Library, Museum of Australian Democracy, National Museum of Australia or Cockington Green; or maybe just stroll beside Lake Burley Griffin or the gardens and relax!

Pre-polling now open! Send in the ballot below with \$100pp deposit (+ 1% if paying by credit card).

Direct debit: BSB 633000, Account no. 149823767, Description <your name> Canberra, then email remittance advice.

Please pay in full at least a week in advance, unless special arrangements have been made.

SPRING 2025 CANBERRA HOLIDAY REGISTRATION

Name:..... Partner:..... Address:.....

.....Post Code:..... Phone:.....

Email:..... Enclosed is \$......being for my/our single/twin/double room

How did you find out about the holiday?..... (e.g. club you saw flyer). Make cheques to Trumps. Send with form to:

Trumps Bridge Centre, PO Box 939, Spit Junction, 2088. Enquiries welcome:

Contact Derrick 0412 947 279 or Trumps (02) 9969 5959 or Email: trumps@trumps.net.au