



Trumps Update

Dec 2025

(02) 9969 5959

trumps.net.au

trumps@trumps.net.au

www.facebook.com/trumpsbridgecentre

Winning with losers

by Derrick Browne

Plan your play as declarer in 6♠, on the auction and lead shown:

Contract: 6♠ by South. Lead: ♦3.

NORTH (dummy)

♠ A 8 7 6 5

♥ K 7

♦ Q 4

♣ Q 8 7 6



SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 4 3 2

♥ A Q J

♦ A 6

♣ A 10

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass 2NT¹ Pass 1S

Pass 4S Pass 3S

Pass 5D² Dble 4NT

Pass 6S

¹Jacoby 2NT, showing a fit and game points

²Keycard 30/14 (shows one keycard – an ace or the trump king)

With 19 points including shortage, you pushed to slam after North showed a good hand with Jacoby. East's double of the 5♦ response to Blackwood asked partner to lead a diamond, following the general principle that double of an artificial bid shows that suit. When you call for the queen from dummy on the diamond lead, East covers with the ♦K as expected. What next?

With only two spades out, the odds are slightly better than 50% that there will be one in each defender's hand, so you play a spade to the ace with some hope – hope that is dashed when West shows out while East plays the ♠J. Clearly you will have to lose a trick to the ♠K so you can't afford any other losers. What can you do with the loser in each minor?

One thing you can do is cash three rounds of hearts, discarding the diamond loser from dummy. But that still leaves a club loser, a loser you can't afford. Do you have a finesse available to try to avoid a loser there?

No, if you lead a club towards the queen, whichever opponent has the ♣K will be able to hop up with it to take the trick. You might set up a trick for yourself but only after losing the loser you couldn't afford. Not a good plan.

Some players would instead lead the ♣Q from dummy, hoping East had the ♣K, but that shouldn't work either – East should know to “cover an honour with an honour”, causing you to lose your ♣Q and ♣A on one trick and still have a loser at the end of it all.

If East does have the ♣K, you need not rely on misdefence. You must try to *make* East lead a club. The way to do that is by stripping the other suits (except for trumps) that you do *not* want East to lead. Accordingly, you should now lead your last diamond, and trump it. Having stripped yourself of red suits, you play a spade to throw East in on lead.

NORTH (dummy)

♠ 8 7 6
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST

♠ —
♥ 8
♦ 8 7
♣ 9 5 4 3

EAST

♠ K
♥ 10
♦ J 10
♣ K J 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 4 3
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A 10

East wins the ♠K and is stuck. Leading a club will allow dummy's queen to win. East could instead lead a red suit but that is just as bad, allowing declarer to ruff and sluff, throwing the club loser from hand while ruffing in dummy. Either way, 12 tricks are made.

NORTH (dummy)

♠ A 8 7 6 5
♥ K 7
♦ Q 4
♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST

♠ —
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 8 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 5 4 3

EAST

♠ K J
♥ 10 9 6 4
♦ K J 10 9
♣ K J 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 4 3 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A 6
♣ A 10

♠♥♦♣

Pricing

Costs have risen - including for bridge clubs. We have attempted to absorb some of the expenses, but regret we must pass some on.

From 1 January, Trumps table money is \$15 for members or \$19 for visitors (and \$5 extra at the bowlo). We do not have the same expenses at Ryde, so there it remains \$10 for members, but rises to \$14 for visitors (and the annual membership rises to be in line with Trumps).

Pre-paid tickets: If you use the new \$15 tix while price is still \$14, we give \$1 change, and likewise if you use a \$14 ticket after the price rise, just add \$1. If you don't want to fiddle with \$1, we can upgrade all your tix to the new value in one easy payment. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please see Derrick for a confidential discussion.

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 authority Ron Klinger are joined by Nick Fahrner, 2024 Australian Bridge bidding forum top scorer Alexander Cook, and NSW rep. players Nick Hughes and Nicoleta Giura.

Dealer West, NS Vulnerable, Pairs Scoring

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

♠ K J 10 9 8
♥ K
♦ K J 8
♣ 7 5 4 2

Votes by our panellists

CALL	VOTES
3♦	3
3♣	1
2NT	1
2♠	1

A major aim in selecting problems for this column is to pick ones that won't get a unanimous vote. Looks like I've hit the jackpot with this one, having solicited 4 different answers from our panellists.

Klinger: 3♣. Better to be an overbidder than an underbidder.

Being the fourth suit, general expert practice and I'm sure Ron intended it that way too, is for this to be an artificial game forcing bid, asking partner to describe their hand some more. But yes, with only 11 points, we will possibly be climbing too high if partner has a minimum hand.

Cook: 2NT. This is the correct bid based upon my values, but I don't have a club stopper. Pass would be right if partner has a minimum opening hand. If partner has 3-5-4-1 minimum, they should have rebid 2♠ not 2♦, so I hope partner has at least two clubs to stop the run of the clubs.

I totally agree regarding the 3-5-4-1 argument, so partner's shortage is very likely spades, not clubs.

Fahrner: 3♦. Too strong to pass and too strong to bid 2S. I'll choose 3D as the least of all evils.

Aha – yes. No panellists passed, but I suspect some club players would have. With this many points, you have to do something, as partner's 2♦ is a wide-ranging rebid. It can be anywhere from a nice shapely 11 points that warranted an opening bid; say ♠63♥AJT94♦Q10976♣A, up to 17 or even 18 points; a hand like ♠AQ♥AQxxx♦Axxx♣AQ5. If you pass and partner has the latter hand, your side has 28 points but is playing 2♦ with at least ten tricks (4♠+3♥+2♦+1♣) available in notrump.

Browne: 2♠. Tough. I yearn for at least some semblance of a club stopper so I can bid 2NT, but then it would not be a problem. I can't raise partner's second suit with three, and I can't rebid my first suit without six – but I am going to break my own rules and bid 2♠, seduced by the great suit quality. This suggests under 10 points so I think at teams scoring I would be scared to miss a vulnerable game, and I would instead bid 3♣ fourth suit forcing.

Hughes: 3♦. Should be four trumps but these three will have to do. 2♥ and 2♠ are not silly.

Giura: 3♦. Not happy, I can't even have the excuse "sorry partner, I had a club with the diamonds".

On the actual hand, which arose in a Trumps session, partner held ♠3♥AQJ93♦AQ1094♣K9. If South declares notrump, West will lead ♣Q from ♣QJ102 and the opponents will cash four clubs and the ace of spades before declarer gets the lead.

But if North plays notrump, they cannot be prevented from taking eleven tricks, as West held doubleton ♠AQ to go with their ♣A863. So, a black suit lead gives declarer 11 tops. On a red suit lead, cash ten red tops - the hearts split normally: 4/3 - then lead the ♠3, also for eleven tricks. ♠♥♦♣

♣ **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 (Aug)
Barbara Young & Jan Bush (Sep)

Monday afternoon

Haiden Maltz & Sue Williams (Aug, Sep & Nov)
Barbara Huber & Lilly Wilson (Oct)

Tuesday morning

Faye McIntosh & Elizabeth Price (Aug)
Neil Sylvester & Ashley Stephenson (Sep)
Charles Thorburn & Terry Finnegan (Oct, Nov)

Manly Club - Tuesday afternoon

Angela Mullighan & Carole Vildzius (Aug, Oct)
Judy O'Malley & Patricia Turner (Sep)
Paul Korbel & Bob Pfafflin (Nov)

Tuesday afternoon

Anthony Smuts & Heather Olsen (Aug)
Stef Savanah & Darryl West (Sep)
Peter Fitzmaurice & Jeanette Fitzmaurice (Oct)
Kim Dalling & Cia Benecke (Nov)

Tuesday night

Nurhan Parker & Timothy Bestelink (Aug)
Tim Rickard & Alec Spiller (Sep, Nov)
Nick Scott & Janet Scott (Oct)

Wednesday afternoon

Eric Lippey & Kerry Boytell (Aug, Oct)
Cia Benecke & Merle Payne (Sep)
Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppap (Nov)

Wednesday night

Heather Parker & Gordon Parker (Aug)
Anne Amos & Linda Haughton (Sept)
Stef Savanah & Darryl West (Oct)
Anthony Pearce & Gillian Pearce (Nov)

Thursday morning

Judith Oliver & Kim Dalling (Aug, Oct, Nov)
Ilia Vilensky & Warwick Plunkett (Sep)

Thursday afternoon

Tony Franklin & Virstine Yazdanparast (Aug, Oct)
Judith Oliver & Marika Kruppap (Sep, Nov)

Warringah bowling - Thursday afternoon

Bob Clayton & Mary Sifis (Aug)
Catherine Drury & Marilyn Vaughan (Sep)
Catherine Jones & Philippa Pritchett (Oct)
Suzie Wall & Jenny Jagger (Nov)

Friday afternoon

Trish Armstrong & Christine Algie (Nov)

Saturday afternoon

Marjorie Nicklin & Sue Cooper (Aug, Sep, Oct)
Sue Garner & Vivien McDonald (Nov)



Month winners in action – Jeanette and Peter Fitzmaurice playing against Judith Oliver and Marika Kruppap ♠♥♦♣

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 (runs each week, no break over Xmas)

Social duplicate @ RAC,

Circular Quay

10.30am Tuesdays (to 16D, back 15Jan)

Bridge @ The Manly Club

1pm Tuesdays (to 16 Dec, back 15 Jan)

Bridge @ Warringah Bowling

1pm Thursdays (back 5 February)

Balmoral (members only)



Trump's fill-in players
WhatsApp group



Thanks to our dear players who signed the card and/or donated money for an Officeworks voucher to purchase supplies for Trumps. Your support and friendship are hugely appreciated! Dulcie de Koning is seen here presenting to Derrick.

♣ Most improved Rating ♣

		Old	New	Gain
1	Hanna Lewandowska	43.5	44.73	1.23
2	Rikki Kimura	41.25	42.08	0.83
3	Jennifer Heath	45.41	46.01	0.60
4	Terry Finnegan	55.53	55.89	0.36
5	Bruce Shankland	47.91	48.26	0.35
6	Philip Muir	44.44	44.78	0.34
7	Francie Rigg	40.84	41.18	0.34
8	Terry Bartlett	42.56	42.88	0.32
9	Andrew Parsons	48.4	48.71	0.31
10	Liz Wareing	52.34	52.65	0.31

♣ Top Rated ♣

		Rating
1	Kerry Boytell	64.85
2	Eric Lippey	64.71
3	Kim Dalling	62.62
4	Tim Rickard	61.33
5	Timothy Bestelink	61.27
6	Tony Franklin	61.23
7	Trish Armstrong	61.12
8	Cia Benecke	60.69
9	John Green	60.57
10	Anthony Smuts	60.54

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

ABF masterpoint promotions

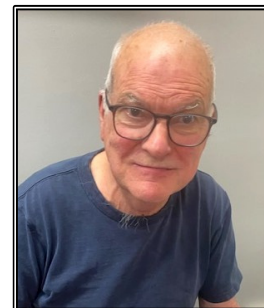
Anthea Piddington	Bronze <i>Regional</i>
Michael Bergheim	Bronze <i>Regional</i>
Felicity Duivenbode	Bronze <i>Regional</i>
Usha Modi	Bronze <i>Regional</i>
Sally Munnings	<i>Regional</i>
Catherine Jones	Silver <i>Local</i>
David Leckie	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Hanna Lewandowska	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Lindy Smyth	Bronze <i>Local</i>
Elaine Pickles	<i>Local</i>
Chris Severn	<i>Club</i>
Lorelle O'Neill	<i>Club</i>
Mary Ann Duncan	<i>Club</i>
Mitra Kazemi-Taleghani	<i>Club</i>
Neil Sylvester	<i>Club</i>
Simon Stevens	<i>Club</i>
Anne Stewart	<i>Graduate</i>
Colette Colman	<i>Graduate</i>
Penny Browne	<i>Graduate</i>
Rikki Kimura	<i>Graduate</i>
Russell Wright	<i>Graduate</i>
Jan Rooke	<i>Graduate</i>
Jean Weir	<i>Graduate</i>

Congratulations!

Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs

On Tuesday morning, 28 October, we held our club heat of the Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs (AWRP). This fun national event lets you play at your local club, with your results compared to players all over Australia.

Big congratulations to **Terry Finnegan (pictured) & Charles Thorburn** — not only did they win at Trumps, but they also finished in **the top 20 nationwide!**



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, Pairs Scoring

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

♠ 8 3 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ Q 10 7 5 2
♣ A 6

Cup day photo



Merry Xmas



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 a previous page for other session times)

Silly season less silly this year!

We plan to run most Trumps sessions as normal over the Christmas and New Year period this time (although some will be small with people away or otherwise tied up).

Bridge runs to Wednesday afternoon 24 Dec, but we are closed Wed night 24 Dec and Xmas 25 Dec. Boxing Day 26 Dec we have our Friday 10am training and 1.20 for 1.30pm red points, but no night game. New Year's Day Thurs 1 Jan we have the sessions running.

Swiss Pairs is Sunday 4 Jan (& Gourmet Pairs prior).

Benefits

Of Trumps membership

- A regular update of news, views and tips
- Save \$4 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! ♦♣